Research confirms meth's allure

Crystal use jumps among gay men; health officials debate treatment plans.

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Standing out
LGBTs shine as bright

as the Golden Gate.
see Pride section



Celebrity Grand Marshal San Francisco Pride 2005's out and proud Alec Mapa. see Arts section



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Solmonese tours flyover states

by Matthew S. Bajko

he itinerary reads like a map to the heart of red state America. Topeka, Kansas. Birmingham, Alabama. Texas. Georgia. Stops did include New York and Los Angeles, but Joe Sol-monese spent most of his inau-gural month as president of the gural month as president of the Human Rights Campaign in parts of the country where being gay is

He came away from his tour across the heartland with a sense that the country as a whole would be more supportive of gay rights if people only knew their LGBT neighbors.

"I don't think America is antigay as much as I think in many

places in America it comes down to something as simple as people just don't know us," said the single 40-year-old Solmonese during an interview Thursday, June 16 in the lobby of the Hotel Serrano in downtown San Francisco. "The one thing we know is when some-one in your life lets you know who they truly are, that they are gay or lesbian, it really is a seismic shift for that person. To me that is both simple and daunting. When you go to places like I've been and you talk about these abstract issues like marriage and hate crimes, if you put a name and a face to it, it changes their view. If someone is out to them it changes their view."

States that just passed constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage are not lost causes in Solmonese's mind. In-stead, they are examples of where the stories of gays and lesbians need to be told.

'If you live in a state that just lost the marriage battle, what is the real life implications for you because of that? Let us tell it in a greatly amplified way through the press," he said.

Since starting his new job on April 11, earning an annual salary of \$225,000, Solmonese said he has been putting in seven day weeks, whether in his D.C. office or out on the road meeting with LGBT leaders and straight allies across the nation. Last week marked his first trip as HRC president to San Francisco, meeting with local LGBT leaders and HRC

supporters. He has visited the headquarters of major corporations – Ford Motor Company, Sprint, Coca Cola, and Hallmark – meeting with the LGBT workforce and ex-

ecutives.

"I learned how these employees are able to influence and change hearts and minds of other employees and corporate leadership," he said.

He sought out straight leaders of civil rights and women's groups supportive of gay rights, attempting to strengthen the bridges already built between the groups. And he met with religious leaders to better grasp how to talk to communities of faith.

"I want to find ways to bring our straight allies more into the

our straight allies more into the work. How can we better frame our message to connect it to their causes," he said.

The bottom line, as he sees it, is HRC needs to increase its efforts to help LGBT people come out, whether to their families, coworkers, or their next-door neighbors.

"A lot of corporations are

ing domestic partnership benefits, but what do we do about the plant floor? At GM, if you are on the as-sembly line making a car, how do you come out to the guy next to you? We need to add a focus to that – and we will," he said.

Working both sides

Formerly the executive director of Emily's List, a women's rights group that is closely tied to the Democratic Party, Solmonese is now working both sides of the political divide. Back in Washington, he has met with both Republicans - Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon and Congressman Chris Shays of Connecticut – and Democrats – openly gav Massachusetts Congressman ly gay Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank and the state's senior Senator Ted Kennedy, as well as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco

On his list of people to meet are Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, and the national chairs of both parties: Democrat Howard Dean and Republican Ken Mehlman. Asked about Dean's comments that Democrats Dean's comments that Democrats don't support gay marriage and gay leaders should instead push for civil unions, Solmonese said, "I guess it's all the more reason for me to meet with Howard Dean."

"There is a lot of speculation on where we should be [on gay marriage] as a community we

on where we should be Jon gay marriage.] As a community we need to stick to our guns and try to do our best to bring people along. Our job is to educate them on the issue and of where we are,

added. On another hot button issue, gays serving in the military, Sol-monese commended the LGBT monese commended the LGB1 community for being on message and stressing how the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is detrimental to not only the military, but also the safety of the country.

"It feels like there is increasing public sentiment on overturning it. The American people want.

Osama bin Laden captured and they don't care if his captors are gay or straight," he said. On inclusion of transgender

rights in federal nondiscrimina-tion laws, Solmonese does intend to carry forward former HRC President Cheryl Jacques's deci-sion to throw HRC's support besion to throw HRC's support behind the issue. The policy change "makes perfect sense to me," he said. "We don't support any legislation that is not inclusive. You can't be advocating for hate crimes protection and not for rights for the transgender computity."

Largest gay group

HRC has long touted itself as the nation's largest LGBT group, with 650,000 members. It's budget this year is more than \$30 million. But in recent months the Washing-ton Blade has taken HRC to task for

how it calculates its membership.
According to the Blade, anyone who has ever given HRC money, or shopped on its Web site, is considered a member. Solmonese said the organization is "sorting through" how it tallies its num-"sorting bers, but criticized the gay D.C. paper for its coverage.

"People are members who want to donate financially or be involved politically. We are taking a look at who do we consider as members," he said. "No matter what our total number is it will be



HRC prez Joe Solmonese

exponentially bigger than any-body else's. It is humorous and troubling that the Washington

troubling that the Washington Blade has donated so much time to this subject as our opponents have increased their numbers."

San Francisco and the Bay Area have long had a tortured relationship with HRC, with some local leaders faulting the national group for heira miserth in its floaristic transfer. for being miserly in its financial support on the local level. Trans-gender leaders are still wary of how gender leaders are still wary of how committed it is to their cause, and progressive activists find more connection to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force than HRC, which some view as more welcoming of the A-list, wealthy crowd.
State Assemblyman Mark Leno

(D-San Francisco), a former HRC board member, said criticism, "hopefully constructive," of HRC is to be expected. But he said even

to be expected. But he said even with Republicans seemingly driving the national political agenda, a strong nationwide LGBT group is needed and should be supported. "Now it's easy to wonder during such dark years of complete Republican domination to think what value does [HRC] have, if at all? But we can't be shortsighted. The pendulum will swing back and we will have an opportunity and we will have an opportunity to present legislation in the future, so we need to have a presence," said Leno, who met with Sol-monese for the first time in Los

Angeles last Sunday morning. HRC is trying to win over its HRC is trying to win over its critics by driving more funds to local efforts. In California, the agency joined NGLTF's decision to launch a \$1 million fundraising drive toward defeating a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage expected to be on the ballot in June 2006.

Both agencies pledged to donate up to \$100,000, matching \$1 to every \$4 raised, if the state's LGBT community raised \$1 million by Labor Day weekend. And

lion by Labor Day weekend. And in Pennsylvania, HRC plans to join the Stonewall Democrats push to defeat antigay Republican Senator Rick Santorum, who is up for re-election next year.
"I know each of us are looking

at that race to figure out how we can be more impactful," he said.

Focused on future

In taking on the leadership post of HRC, Solmonese is fo-cused on the future, attempting to put the agency's past troubles and personnel squabbles squarely in the past.

"I entered this process and tried purposefully not to look

tried purposefully not to look backwards on what any of my predecessors had done. What I have tried to do is say I have an idea on how I should do this job moving forward," he said.

When asked if there is any lasting bitterness over the departure of Jacques last December, he said staff morale is high. He credits his decision to spend his first month barnstorming across the country, meetnamed.

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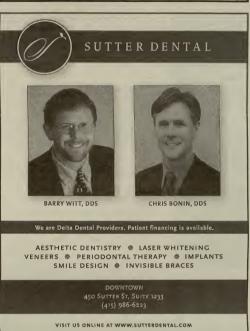
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Pride grand marshals brunch

compiled by Cynthia Laird

ride Parade grand marshal Donna Sachet and longtime Donna Sachet and longtime community activist Gary Virginia are teaming up once again to host a seventh annual "Pride Brunch Benefit" Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1231 Market Street at 8th in San Francisco. The hotel's card bell'recommendations. has been reserved for 300 guests, and all the grand marshals are expected to be on hand. They include: celebrity marshals L Word creator Ilene Chaiken, Broadway and television star Alec Mapa, and former NFL player Esera Tuaolo; community grand marshals Sa-Native American activist Randy Burns, former Ambassado James C. Hormel, drag queen and activist Juanita More, East Bay Dyke March organizer Peggy Moore, and MCC-SF pastor the Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon; lifetime achievement grand mar-shal Empress I Jose Sarria, the Dowager Widow Norton; and or-ganization grand marshal Pets Are Wonderful Support. In addition to mingling with the grand marshals and other

local movers and shakers, enter-tainment will be provided by the Dixieland Dykes + 3.jazz band. Tickets to the event start at \$75.

per person, and proceeds benefit the Positive Resource Center. Tickets can be purchased online at www.positiveresource.org.

Alice club's Pride breakfast Sunday

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Decratic Club will host its annual Pride breakfast Sunday, June 26, before the parade at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, 450 Powell Street in San Francisco. For the politically inclined, the breakfast is expected to attract numerous elected of-



marks of support for the LGBT community; Mayor Gavin New-som will provide the keynote ad-

Expected to be on hand are House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D- San Francisco); state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco); Assemblymen Mark Leno and Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), and John Laird (D-Santa Cruz); City Attorney Dennis Herrera; Treasurer

Jose Cisneros; Dis-trict Attorney Kamala Harris; and Democratic gubernatorial can-didates Phil An-gelides and Steve Westly.

The breakfast runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Tickets are \$55 for Alice members or \$80 for non-members (not tax-deductible), and can be purchased online at www.alicebtoklas.org/pride.asp or by phone at (415) 707-2010.

Immigration Equality benefit tonight

Bay Area vocalist Tanya Hul-lana will headline at the Edge bar tonight (Thursday, June 23) from 8 to 11 p.m. at the "Diva on the Edge" benefit for the San Francisco chapter of Immigration Equal-

ity.

Hullana was the first runnerup in last year's "Pride Idol" contest and has since performed at
the Aladdin Resort in Las Vegas,
the Blue Chairs Resort in Puerto
Vallarta, the Hayward Gay and
Lesbian Film Festival, and numeruse charit exercts.

An \$8 beer/soda benefit will be offered, along with a raffle drawing featuring a \$500 gift certificate from Chevy's Restaurant. The event will be emceed by Gary Virginia, Mr. SF Leather 1996.

Immigration Equality works to end the widespread discriminatory impact of immigration laws on gays and lesbians through education outrach and discrements. tion, outreach, and advocacy. The group was recognized as organiza-tion grand marshal of last year's Pride Parade. The Edge is located at 4149 18th Street in San Francisco. For more information on Immigration Equality, visit www.im migrationequalitysf.org or call (415) 392-6257.

Classic car show

The Freewheelers Car Club

will host its annual exhibit of vintage automobiles Saturday, June 25 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Pier 45 at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. This year the car show benefits the GLBT Historical Society;

there's a \$5 donation for the event.

"From backseats to muscle cars, the GLBT Historical Society knows all about the relationships between automobiles, sex, free-dom, and the gay, lesbian, bi-

sexual, and transgender com-munity," said Terence Kis-sack, executive director of

sack, executive director of the historical society.

The Freewheelers' origins can be traced to Sunnyvale, when a small group of gay car collectors met to exchange infor-**News Briefs** to exchange infor-

mation and socialize. The car club was formed in 1978 and has since become an active part of the com-munity. Its annual car shows have raised more than \$50,000 for local

Saturday's show is expected to feature around 80 vehicles.

Sixth Street fair

A group of neighborhood activists, staff from area agencies, and local business owners will come together Saturday, June 25 for the fourth annual Positively Sixth Street Fair in San Francisco's South of Market District. Sixth Street has long been regarded as an impoverished area, fair orga-nizers said, adding that the fair was started to show the city the di-verse and soulful face of this often maligned part of town.

maligned part of town.

Blues artist and KPOO radio personality Bobbie Webb will perform at one end of the fair, and up and coming rock and roll bands such as Candies from Strangers and youth spoken word and rap artists will entertain at the other end. There will be a youth section and a senior section. The captain and officers from the police de-partment's Southern Station plan partment's Southern Station plan to grill more than 1,000 hot dogs, part of a food giveaway that includes bags of fresh produce from the San Francisco Food Bank.

The fair takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sixth Street at Minna Alley, a half block south of

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A community Pride breakfast page 26 ▶

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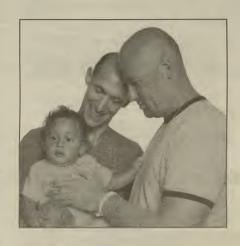


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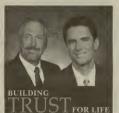
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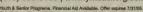
I am a news analyst for an on-line music trade blog. My passions are traveling, music, dancing, hanging out at the beach and meeting people from different backgrounds and cultures. Here at the Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA I do a lot of aerobics, I swim and do strength training. I like this Y because the people are friendly and the instructors are approachable. Plus I like the diversity of the people. It just represents San Francisco to me.

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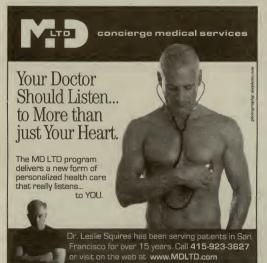


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Dyke March is still keeping it real

by Zak Szymanski

obody forgets the powerful experience of the San Fran-cisco Dyke March: the tens cisco Dyke March: the tens of thousands of women who take over the streets; the diversity of races, ages, abilities, and gender expressions; the enthusiastic cheerleaders who stage explicit peep shows in the windows along the march route; the pulsing street party that unofficially kicks off Pride weekend in all its glory.

Pride weekend in all its glory.
Uncorrupted by corporate influences, fiercely political, woman-centric, and damn sexy, this year's march is on Saturday, June 25, beginning with a rally and performances in Dolores Park from 3 to 7 p.m. and culminating with a march through the Mission District and into the Castro.

The theme of this year's march is "Dykes Across Borders – We Won't be Divided," a recognition of the commonality shared by all women and the responsibility to fight for human rights everywhere.

fight for human rights everywhere.
"Dykes face opposition no
matter nationality or place of origin. Our outsider's perspective is
necessary, particularly in response
to the U.S. government's irrational obstinacy when it comes to
the good of the world," said this
very's Dyke Maych, externment the good of the world," said this year's Dyke March statement.
"Dykes must raise our voices in dissent, to articulate what is unspoken and unspeakable, to say what we have been trained out of speaking, and so that we may hear one another ... We march in soli-darity with poor dykes, battered dykes, and dykes on the front lines of each and every one of the U.S. government's racist, imperi-O.S. government's racist, imperialist, greed-driven wars, at home and abroad. ... We march for dykes, but not only for dykes: we believe that by gathering together and speaking our truth, we each make the world a better place."

As is tradition, all women are welcome at the march and rally, and the space is transgender-in-clusive and allows for participants to self-identify. Men, however, are asked to cheer their sisters on from the sidelines.



A scene from the 1999 Dyke March that's part of an exhibit ("Many Dykes, Two Photographers – SF Dyke Marches") at the GLBT Historical Society by photographers Jane Philomen Cleland and Cathy Cade. Call (415) 777-5455 for exhibit hours.

"We celebrate our queerness in "we celebrate our queeness in all its manifestations. Given this year's theme, 'Dykes Across Bor-ders,' we understand dyke identi-ty to include those of us who are questioning and challenging gen-der constructs and the social defi-nitions of women and who are der constructs and the social den-nitions of women, and who are gender fluid," according to Dyke March organizers. "We also wel-come all women who want to sup-port dykes to march with us."

Comedian Marga Gomez will be the special guest on the Dyke March stage. Other speakers and performers at Saturday's rally are numerous and multi-purposed: breast self-exam features Ren breast self-exam features Ren Davis Phoenix, Beverly Burns of the Charlotte Maxwell Clinic, Leslie Ewing of Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, and singer Nanci Armstrong; while speakers and spoken word poets include Dr. Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Pamela Gurnamal, Marjory Nelson and Lea Arellano, and Tina D'Elia. Bands include the Latin fusion sensation Orquesta d'Soul, the hip-hop / funk rock trio Sistas In The Pit, and the all-drag, hardrocking 1970s cover band Wood. Dance acts range from the drag king numbers of Mamas Boyz and Nappy Grooves to the Raks

and Nappy Grooves to the Raks Al Tasneem belly dancers to Big Burlesque's Fat-Bottom Revue An open blessing and ritual will

be led by Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits. The stage emcess are Nafis and Micia, and DJ La Niche of Kaliente will spin tunes. The diversity of the lineup re-

flects the message of the march, or as organizers summarized, "Dykes refuse to acknowledge national/cultural borders as limitations: we care about and are affected by every-

Dykes in need of special access can take BART to the Mission/16th Street station or drive to San Francisco, park for free at the Hoff Street garage on 16th be-tween Mission and Valencia, and take advantage of the march's free shuttle to Dolores Park, then ride sinding to Dollors Fark, their fide in a motorized cable car at the front of the march or be shuttled to a viewing stand. For more information on senior and disability services, call (510) 383-9858. The stage also will be ASL interpreted.

Another event of dyke interest is the all-inclusive Trans March, to be held Friday, June 24. Beginning with a rally and performers in Do-March kicks off at 7 p.m. to "speak out against violence, hate, transphobia, and the oppression of any and all of us under the existing social structure," according to orga-nizers, "and to be fabulous and powerful in the company of others that are fabulous and powerful."

Take precautions during Pride

by Zak Szymanski

aturday, June 4 saw hundreds of LGBT people celebrating the opening of the National Queer Arts Festival at a reception and performance at San Francisco's LGBT Community Center. But the event ended, un-fortunately, with an assault upon a transgender male who was standing in front of the center standing in front of the center-with a small group of people when an angry man walked by and threw a nearby A-frame con-struction stand toward them. Ainsley, 26, a festival performer who asked that his last name not be

used, was knocked to the ground and suffered a bloodied and bruised leg as a result of the assault. He was treated at the emergency room for his injuries. The assailant – who appeared to some onlookers to be mentally ill – left the scene and was

not apprehended.

It would be irresponsible, said
Castro Special Police Patrol Of-

fice Jane Warner, who responded to the scene, to characterize the assault as a hate crime. No antiassaurt as a nate crime. No anti-LGBT slurs were uttered, and the man reportedly appeared to be angry before he encountered the individuals.

But Ainsley and others – while they aren't certain it was a hate-

they aren't certain it was a nate-motivated attack – also don't think they can automatically rule it out. "I just feel like it was too ob-vious. There was me, standing with two transwomen, and some dykes, and we were right in front of the center," he said, adding that because he does not pass as male he is often read as a butch lesbian. "I don't know, maybe the guy was on drugs or had a mental illness. I really have no idea what was in that guy's head."

Many hate crimes walk a muddy line, according to Tina D'Elia of Community United Against Violence, with crimes of opportunity often occurring where groups of people are assembled, and violent offenders with noning their targets for a reason. Other crimes such as "pick-up crimes" that result in robbers specific anger nonetheless chooscrimes" that result in robbery, rape, and/or assault are rarely categorized as hate crimes because often the perpetrators are seen as "dates" rather than criminals pre-tending to be romantically inter-

ested in their victims.

Regardless of the actual nature of the attacks, Pride month in par-ticular poses a higher risk for all types of assaults because of increased LGBT visibility, more crowds, and often, the presence of drugs and alcohol. Therefore, said D'Elia, people should take extra precautions during Pride activities and other events.

"Every year over Pride week-end there are both hate crimes and

assaults reported," she said. CUAV recommendations for increased safety include going to events with buddies; designating someone as a sober driver and/or watchdog; and always being

page 26 ▶

Video show hits Castro

by Tyson Gillfillan

an Francisco HIV prevention organization Stop AIDS Project announced plans to turn the intersection of hand Castro streets into an enormous prevention campaign for this year's Pride weekend. The project, called "Shining a Light on HIV," is one of the most ambition. the group has ever attempted for LGBT Pride, and involves project-

LGBT Pride, and involves projecting two-story videos onto both street fronts of the Bank of America building, which will be shrouded in white vinyl.

Shining a Light on HIV is the result of a year's worth of planning efforts among 25 volunteers. "Logistically, this is very difficult," said agency spokesman Jason Riggs, who originally developed the concept. "However, the impact will make all the work worthwhile."

The price tag to produce the

make all the work worthwhile."

The price tag to produce the event was \$10,000 – a figure Riggs noted as "one-seventh the price of a full page, full color ad in the [San Francisco] Chronicle." He said the organization has been particularly blessed with talented volunteers who have provided low cost. teers who have provided low-cost film and video editing expertise

over the years.

The videos will be displayed from sundown until 2:15 a.m. the nights of Friday June 24 and "Pink Saturday" June 25. Projected scenes include 19 distinct video shorts, interspersed with facts and phrases to convey a full spectrum of HIV prevention issues in the gay community, including crystal methamphetamine abuse, the need for greater HIV testing, and

need for greater HIV testing, and the importance of building a stronger sense of community to help stop the spread of HIV. Stop AIDS says the need re-mains great, citing statistics such as one in four San Francisco gay men have HIV and one in five HIV-positive men don't know they HIV-positive men don't know tiey are infected; and, despite success-full treatment options, more than 300 people die of AIDS in San Francisco every year. "The point is to have fun, but to also offer up some hard hitting truths using up to-date data of the epidemic in San

to-date data of the epidemic in San Francisco," added Riggs. He said one particularly provocative series of videos called "We're all in bed together" shows



An image from the video series "We are all in bed together," one of 19 videos in "Shining A Light on HIV."

six guys lounging in bed together with various close-ups of their bodies intertwined. "The point is

bodies intertwined. "The point is that there is a lot of truth in our community to the 'six degrees of separation' adage," said Riggs. Another, similarly themed piece uses photos, graphic lines, and arrows (much like a Friend-ster.com campaign) to convey the impact of transpitting an STD to impact of transmitting an STD to only one person.

The effectiveness of these The effectiveness of these provocative campaigns has been called into question recently, however. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pulled funding from the group saying that campaigns like these might not work.

Stop AIDS disagrees. "Our purpose is three-fold," said Riggs. "We want to remind people during gay Pride weekend to continue e safe, we want to inform and educate people about the continuing impact HIV has on the community, and ultimately, we want to help reduce HIV and STD transmissions.

The week after the installation, The week after the installation, people are encouraged to visit the Stop AIDS Web site or outreach center at Sanchez and Market streets to see the videos again and vote for their favorite one. The top winner will be produced as a broadcast-quality public service announcement, which the local ABC7 affiliate has agreed to show in heavy rotation during the fall premier season in Sentember • premier season in September.

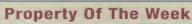
For more information, to view the video entries and vote for your favorite, go to www.stopaids.org or visit the Stop AIDS Community Outreach Center, 207 Sanchez Street at Market in San













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Let's give Harvey some hope

arvey Milk. The name conjures up many emotions. Milk was a trailblazer, a hard campaigner, fun-loving, and a a mart, savvy politician. By the time he came to San Francisco and opened his camera store on Castro Street, he was out and proud. The store quickly transformed into makeshift The store quickly transformed into makeshift campaign headquarters, where Milk strategized and plotted his election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a race he won in 1977 on his third attempt. Tragically, as the world knows, Milk was gunned down in his City Hall office on November 27, 1978, only 11 months after taking office. He did not live to see dreams fulfilled completely.

But Milk was a major player in other

live to see dreams fulfilled completely.

But Milk was a major player in other ways, too. He fought hard against the antigay Briggs initiative in 1978, which would have banned gays from working as public school teachers. He had debated then-state Senator John Briggs before being elected. Later, he got elected "and really tore Briggs apart," our late publisher, Bob Ross, said in a 2003 interview. When Proposition 6, as it was called, went down to defeat in June 1978, shortly before that year's Pride Parade, Milk was jubilant.

1978, shortly before that year's Pride Parade, Milk was jubilant.

Milk's ties to the Bay Area Reporter, and especially with Ross, were many. Milk used to write the paper's political column, and he named Ross as one of several possible successors in bit of al possible successors in his fa-mous taped "political will." The men were friends and political al-lies in those early years of the gay liberation movement. Back then many gays were not out as they are today

– Milk, in his political life, and Ross, in
publishing the newspaper,
were two big exceptions.

One of Milk's biggest challenges to the community was
for everyone to come out of the closet. ""

Editorial for everyone to come out of the closet. "Gay brothers and sisters, what are you going to do about it? You must come out. Come out . . . to about it? You must come out. Come out . . . to your parents . . . i know that it is hard and will hurt them but think about how they will hurt you in the voting booth," Milk said during his speech at the 1978 Gay Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco. ".. Come out to your friends if indeed they are your friends. Come out to your reighbors." out to your neighbors ... to your fellow workers ... to the people who work where



Harvey Milk having fun at the Castro Street Fair in 1978 - his last.

you eat and shop ... come out only to the people you know, and who know you. Not to anyone else. But once and for all, break down

the myths, destroy the lies and distortions." Yes, Milk gave us hope, and he made

us proud.

More than two years ago, in Janu ary 2003, former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez used the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Milk's swearing in cere-

mony to announce a campaign with the goal to raise funds for a bust of Milk to be commissioned for placement in City Hall. Many of Milk's former aides and

of Milk's former aides and friends joined Gonzalez at the announcement, and spoke of how much Milk had done for the city, and how the city has, at times, been slow to honor Milk after nas, at times, been slow to nonor Milk after his death. Supervisor Tom Ammiano noted that it took "eight years of struggle to get a school named after Harvey Milk." Since that initial announcement, a small

committee - made up of Dan Nicoletta, a longtime friend of Milk's, Pride Committee President Joey Cain, and a few others – has worked hard to keep the project alive.

Today, the Bob Ross Foundation works to carry out the charitable work that Ross was involved actively in for decades. And in was involved actively in for decades. And the spirit of preserving Milk's legacy, the foundation has announced that it has established a \$25,000 challenge grant to the Milk City Hall Memorial Committee. For every \$1 donated by community members, the foundation will match those contribu-tions, up to \$25,000. It is the foundation's

a booth at Saturday and Sunday's Pride fes-tival in Civic Center Plaza. We encourage people to stop by and make a donation. Do nations can also be made at the committee's Web site, www.milkmemorial.org.

Harvey said, "You've gotta give them hope." He certainly did that for all of us – and nope. He certainly did that for an of us—and his legacy lives on in all of us. Now, with this memorial project getting a jump-start with the new support of the Bob Ross Foundation — and in this year in which he would have turned 75 – let us give Harvey some hope. Happy Pride. ▼

Cruelty remembered, cruelty persists

by Belinda Ryan

alking through the cold and poet ry-engraved wood paneled bunkhouse of the immigration sta-tion on Angel Island recently was a step into history. But for the members of Immigra-tion Equality's San Francisco chapter, it was an all too painful visible and tangible reali-ty of the oppression people who are dis-criminated against face in the immigration system. For 30 years the detention center on Angel Island acted as the West Coast's Ellis Island, however, the mainly Chinese immigrants had an average stay of three weeks compared with most East Coast immigrants having an average three-hour processing time. The bunkhouse was a cramped, prison environment where the people were held, and they had no certainty as to the outcome of their application for immigration to the United States. The Chinese detainees chan-neled their frustration, anger, and pain into poetry, which they anonymously carved in the paneled walls of the bunkhouse.

For Immigration Equality members it is an historic landmark recognizing the immigration injustices of this country. A docent on the island spoke to us in historical terms of the oppression the Chinese immigrants faced. The visitors in his group were astonished at the cruelty that occurred both emotionally and physically to the Chinese im-migrants. For the lesbian and gay immigrants and their partners in our group, this cruelty still exists. It was only 15 years ago that America ceased barring homosexuals from entering the country using terms such as "sexual deviant" and "person of psycho-pathic inferiority" to justify their actions. But while visiting Angel Island, I was told of

a gay man who was barred from entering the U.S. just last month. He had in his belongings his HIV medications and current-ly the U.S. bans people with HIV. He was sent on the next flight back to Australia. Within our group we had a lesbian who has experienced the emotional torture of being put into a deportation detention cell and moved from place to place for three days, unable to make contact with her American citizen partner of eight years.

As gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans gender Americans, we do not have facilities to point to that illustrate our plight. We are the unseen persecuted. So many of our group ar Americans forced to live in exile be cause they want to continue their committed relationships. Unseen and unheard, quietly they left this country; they **Guest Opinion**

have no deportation pa-pers to point to, no entry-denied stamp in their U.S. passport. They are U.S. citizens waiting in exile, waiting for the U.S. law to change to allow them and their family to return to their U.S. homeland.

The law does not currently recognize a

same-sex family for the purpose of immigration. Since 1990 the immigration act has prioritized family reunification as a means to remain in the U.S. But a gay couple with two children is not considered family for immigration purposes, despite three family members being U.S. citizens.

The parallel of the Chinese bunkhouse detainese counting days the days of incar-

detainees counting down the days of incar-ceration was not lost on those couples who are counting down the days left on their foreign partner's visa. The couples will inevitably have to leave the U.S. or break up.

The Chinese detainees were looking for a

new beginning and their community over the years has fought against its oppression and achieved equality. So, too, are the mem-bers of Immigration Equality fighting for an end to their oppression and equal treatment

On Tuesday, June 21, the Uniting American Families Act (formerly the Permanent Partners Immigration Act) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-New York). The name change is to reflect the fact that American families under the existing immigration laws are being adversely affected. So far, there are 53 cosponsors to this

new bill, with more expected, according to Nadler

Our chapter float in Sunday's Pride Parade shows a border

pinion

rossing with gay couples being kept apart by an 8 foot high chain link fence, but a "married" opposite sex couple being able to walk through the check point. We asked our chapter members, many of who are Americans and now living many of who are Americans and now living in exile, to send flags from the countries to decorate the float. We have been inundated with flags! The float is going to be a dramatic contrast to the party floats of the parade.

This is a very serious issue and impacts so many people's lives. Let history teach us a lesson and let the Angel Island immigration station continually remind us of the past and current immigration injustices occurring in this country. ▼

Belinda Ryan is the San Francisco chapter coordinator of Immigration Equality. For more information, visit

Brobera's the best

I have known Lenny Broberg for 15 years as a good man and a great representative of the gay communi-ty of San Francisco. He was a leatherman long before he became a San Francisco police officer and has maintained his fairness through it all.

I wish to voice my support for him to speak for the gay community on the KRON coverage of the Pride Parade on June 26.

Alden Spafford Oakland, California

Badlands rhetoric destructive

Badlands rhetoric destructive

The rhetoric in the SF Badlands allegations is worse than irritating. It's counterproductive, even destructive, on a number of very insidious levels.

So a growing collection of disgruntled former employees; rejected, ejected, or denied partygoers; gangbangers; drug dealers; rival bar owners; ad-hoc political action startups (who the hell is BALIF1); "legal professionals" (read: lawyers); real estate interests (don't kid yourself about this); homophobes (professed, closeted, or otherwise – particularly those with issues surrounding male homosexuality); "liberal-minded" or "tolerant" metrosexual tourists; and a stunning number of liars and hypocrites in the whole bunch – would like to see another gay bar bite the dust?

As a business owner – specifically, as a bar owner –

As a business owner – specifically, as a bar owner – Les Natali has an obligation to keep his premises profitable, safe, and free of drugs, violence, or assault. He also has an obligation to use whatever mea-

sures are necessary to prevent any threat thereof. Nobody has the "right" to wear baggies (which, in fact, have their origin in an attempt to conceal weapons), or gang colors, into any establishment they choose.

colors, into any establishment they choose. None of us has the "right" to go into a jazz lounge, or a blues bar, and demand to hear hip-hop.

What Les Natali has failed to do is to declare that he is guilty as charged, and should be put out of business. He has altered his advertising to make a specific point of reaching out to persons of color; he has amended his admission policies, his hiring practices, and the playlist on his video monitors. Even at the risk of losing his base clientele, and therefore his business, his accusers are not satisfied. Okay, then, just what does And Castro For All – whoever they are, stupid name and all – really want? If their motives are so altruistic, then why not put down the weapons? After all, we're talking about \$1.25 domestic beer. What's this really about?

We think that the real motive is to shut down a fag bar. And not just any fag bar: one of the largest, most

We think that the real motive is to shut down a fag bar. And not just any fag bar: one of the largest, most successful fag bars in the Castro – and maybe one or two more, in the process. We agree with Mr. Natali's lawyer: And Castro For All is acting like a vigilante group (a rabid one, at that). We also agree that the June 14 resolution by the Board of Supervisors was "a shameless act," "legally meaningless," and that it showed the Board of Supervisors at its worst: "that if they didn't vote for the resolution, [And Castro for All! would accuse them of being racist."

they didn't vote for the resolution, [And Castro for All] would accuse them of being racist."

In the years that we have frequented the Castro, Headquarters – which briefly became the Night Shift – became a fast food Mexican outlet, before it became a pasta bar (itself a division of Chevy's). Walgreens swallowed up the Phoenix. And a large commercial block – where all that remains of the enormous Patio block – where all that remains of the enormous Patio Restaurant & Bar is the neon sign – became a gutted, street-level eyesore, because the building owner re-fuses to budge on obscene rental demands. It is worth remembering that the whole Badlands fracas began under the stench of conflicting bids for the Pendulum (which Les Natali did subsequently acquire), and his desire to expand the Detour into the adjacent vacant streefront (which to date he has been effectively are storefront (which, to date, he has been effectively pre-vented from doing).

storefront (which, to date, he has been effectively prevented from doing).

Want to do something positive for The Castro? Stop allowing outsiders to further compromise its world-famous LGBT legacy. Try to get the Board of Supervisors to sponsor, and pass, a resolution declaring a moratorium on nail salons, condominium development, or chain retail outlets – or place a stiff penalty on building owners who allow their commercial properties to remain vacant for extended periods. We've been going to Badlands since the ceilings were covered in old license plates, and the jukebox spit out 1970s rock. We have witnessed persons of every size, age, and race hanging out there. Would we, as gay white men, been as welcome at any number of ethnic or minority bars in the city?

We urge everyone to defy the whole smear campaign, the finger-pointing, and the mob mentality that surrounds it. Badlands remains one of the sleekest, most professionally run dance bars in the entire city. It also has some of the friendliest, best looking, bar staff we've ever met. They not only seem to like

bar staff we've ever met. They not only seem to like their jobs, but they actually know how to mix drinks. Not that they have to: the beer at Badlands is also the coldest, and the cheapest.

The Castro has always been an easy mark. You want racism? Try going almost anywhere else.

Dale Swanson and George Raymond San Francisco

Enforce civil rights laws

Enforce civil rights laws

I am one of the complainants in the Natali discrimination case. I worked as a bartender at Badlands for a period of six months in 2003, and though I liked my job tremendously, I had to quit because I could not tolerate working at a place where I knew the owner was discriminating against both patrons and job applicants. "Why don't you just sue him?" some have wondered. Well, I could – by filing a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment & Housing that right has been preserved for those of us who were within the one-year statue of limitations at the time our complaints were originally filed. It certainly would be a lot easier than holding forums, writing letters, passing out flyers, and protesting, which are all really exhausting. However, as a complainant and as a member of And Castro For All, I am driven by a desire to educate our community about the truth, forge sire to educate our community about the truth, forge new bonds across our differences, and see justice served in a way that a lawsuit might not provide. ACAA and our allies want the truth to be told, the laws to be upheld, and civil rights to be advanced.

Lawsuits can, at most, provide two things: money (by way of court-awarded damages or, more often, a cash settlement that typically requires silence on the part of discrimination victims), and promises/orders not to do it again (via settlement or injunction). We want something much greater than that: justice for breaking the laws, just like when any other laws are broken;

and true, lasting social progress.

We cannot back away from full enforcement of our civil rights laws. To do so would be a total betrayal of those of us who have suffered thanks to Les Natali who have suffered thanks to Les Natali and his heinous policies, and a betrayal of our entire community. To do so also would render our laws completely meaningless – if such a clear pattern of civil rights violations were to go un-punished, what would be the point of having civil rights laws at all?

Derek Turner San Francisco

Abuse in SF jails

Mailstrom

Regarding your story about the sheriff's department ["Sheriff's deputy fired over alleged antigay incidents," June 9]: Sheriff Mike Hennessey turned his dents," June 9]: Sheriff Mike Hennessey turned his back on reports made in the 1990s about deputies abusing prisoners. When letters began to appear in the B.A.R. 12 years ago detailing widespread antigay bias among his staff, the sheriff saw nothing, heard nothing, and did nothing. When the abuse continued and the Markunas Society sent letters of complaint to Hennessey and his assistant sheriff, they canceled our

Hennessey and his assistant sherift, they canceled our contract, amid claims we were being disruptive.

Now he must acknowledge the disruption has been coming from sworn staff. No doubt we will hear further excuses when he defends himself in court for his department's malfeasance. It's too bad he has been so accommodating of brutality and such a good old boy. Efforts at rehabilitating offenders have been greatly impaired by his ctubbenness. impaired by his stubbornness

John Frederic Millen, Executive Director James Markunas Society

The elephant in the room

The elephant in the room

Now that we have pulled back the curtain to reveal, once and for all, the racism in the Castro and in white San Francisco, perhaps it is finally time to talk about the elephant in the room — the lack of acceptance of trans women and men.

Transgender men and women seek our respect and acceptance in their chosen gender. Surely we all know a transman or transwoman. Pride is, after all, LGBT Pride. The center is the LGBT Community Center. We all, I hope, know the "T" in LGBT, stands for transgender.

What do transmen and women want? They want to be called he and him or she and her for their chosen gender, a gender they have struggled hard to achieve. So, please use the correct pronouns.

Transmen and women want to be accepted for themselves in their communities, whether it's at a card game, a ball game, a leather event, or a sex party, with their dignity and privacy intact. Transwomen and men demand respect, acceptance, dignity, and privacy as human beings, just as we nontrans people do. Instead, they are often disrespected, unaccepted, outed, discriminated against, marginalized, or ignored all together and right here in our own LGBT community. Transgender women and men are turned away from men-only or women-only events or forced to submit to a kind of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell "of hiding their stamen-only or women-only events or forced to submit to a kind of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell "of hiding their sta-tus at these "born male" or "born female" events.

Please stand up with me and pledge to accept our trans brothers and sisters for themselves in their chosen lives and gender, with their privacy intact. To dis-close or not is their right, not ours. In allowing our trans brothers and sisters to be themselves and ac-cepting them we make our own lives richer and better. Stand up, speak out, and together we can get the ele-phant out of our community. I pledge to get the ele-phant out of the room. Do you?

Daddy Peter Fiske

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WARMING MASSAGE GLIDE

Out, political, & proud

by Bill Barnes

his week, hundreds of thousands of revelers converge for San Francisco LGBT Pride. Everyone at Pride, particularly President **Joey Cain**, deserves credit for excellent entertainment and great grand marshals.



Pride President Joey Cain

The grand marshals effectively balance politics and community. Former Ambassador James Hormel, our country's first openly gay ambassador, a founder of the Human Rights Campaign, and the former dean of the University of Chicago law school, is probably the most nationally known. He's joined by nine others that have made impressive con-

Randy Burns, the founder of Gay American Indi-

ans, is a longstanding voice for justice in communities of color. The Reverend Dr. Penny Nixon leads Metropolitan Community. Church-San Francisco with grace and determination. Jose Julio Sarría was the first LGBT person to run for public office. Pegg Moore is among the most recent of LGBT people seeking office, having just completing a run, albeit unsuccessfully, for Oakland City Council.

City Council.

It's not just politics, it's community. Organization grand marshal Pets Are Wonderful Support provides services to people with HIV. Celebrity grand marshals Ilene Chaiken of The L Word and actor Alec Mapa are much better community representatives than LA's Paris Hilton. In addition to running for Supervisor, Sarria founded the Imperial Court system to raise funds and build community. Grand marshal Donna Sachet served as Empress and has done so much for our community. She's joined by fellow drag persona Juanita More, a force behind Trannyshack.

Till be marching Sunday with state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Board of Equalization member Betty Yee. If you don't have a place to march, and even if you do, come join these extraordinary women. The contingent meets at 9 a.m. at Mission and Beale streets. The Migden contingent is good because you march in front and get done early to enjoy post-parade activities.

Not everything at Pride has gone well, though. KRON-TV should be ashamed for dissing our own Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** by blocking him from pro-



Outgoing Assessor Mabel Teng and Treasurer Jose Cisneros.

viding commentary for the parade on its telecast. The Pride Committee should find a new TV affiliate anyway – who watches KRON anymore?

A bridge over troubled water

Many tourists catch a glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge when they're in town, but they may not know Supervisor Tom Ammiano is a leader on the board of directors of the Golden Gate Bridge,

of, a founder of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District, the agency that manages the bridge. With suicide such a big issue in our community, Ammiano's fighting for a suicide barrier on the bridge. If you've missed this issue, you should catch

filmmaker

Jenni Olson's excellent documentary. The loy of Life

Jenni Ulson's excellent documentary, The Joy of Life.

Another politician taking a lead is philanthropist and bridge board member Janet Reilly, who's running for Assembly District 12 on the West Side against Supervisor Fiona Ma. Many observers note Reilly's ability to turn the moribund bridge board into a platform by taking on this tough issue.

Finally, you've got to see Third

Finally, you've got to see Third Eye Blind, the popular band headed by Stephan Jenkins, on Pride's main stage Sunday. Their song "Jumper" memorializes a friend of the band's manager who committed suicide because he was gay. With powerful lyrics, the song calls attention to this important issue. I'll take Third Eye Blind and the great lesbian band Betty over LA's Tiffany and Debbie Gibson any day.

Assessing the assessor

Mayor Gavin Newsom still hasn't picked an assessor. Conventional wisdom said he'd appoint an Asian successor, a female successor, or both to replace Mabel Teng. The San Francisco Chronicle's Matier and Ross reported that Board of Equalization member Betty Yee declined the job. Tax lawyer Ron Chun, who ran last time, is mentioned frequently since he earned support of the San Francisco Republican Party and the Bay Guardian. Women's leaders, who say that just five of the assessors in California's 58 counties are women, back real estate attorney Alix Rosenthal, the former Elections Commission president who helped improve our elections. There's also the persistent rumor the mayor will try to sidestep en-

dorsing in the Reilly/Ma Assembly race by appointing Supervisor Fiona Ma, who's an accountant.

Yet for all this, the announce-

Yet for all this, the announcement's been long in coming. That's caused speculation that the mayor's pick is internal and that Newsom gives that person the edge over prospective opponents by waiting. This week, the first LGBT name emerged – may-



Mayoral chief of staff Steve Kawa

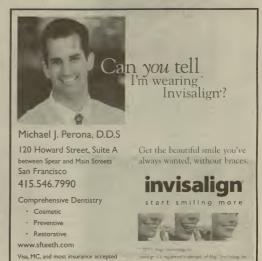
oral chief of staff Steve Kawa. Kawa, who served as an aide to former Supervisor Tom Hsieh, and budget director and deputy chief of staff under former Mayor Willie Brown, is talented and knows city government better than most.

Living will

If the whole Terry Schiavo mess taught us something, it's that a living will is one of the most important documents you can have. Another hopeful sign is Assembly Bill 651, legislation at the state level that will create an Oregon-style program to give people more options about end of life care. Called the Compassionate Choices Act, AB651 supports the most basic human freedom of choice, in that it ensures control by a mentally competent terminally ill person over his or her end of life decisions. Out lesbian, registered nurse, and Democratic County Central Committee member Catherine Dodd has taken up the torch on this one, and deserves tremendous thanks for advancing an issue of such crucial importance to our community.

Have fun at Pride and be safe. See you next week. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com.





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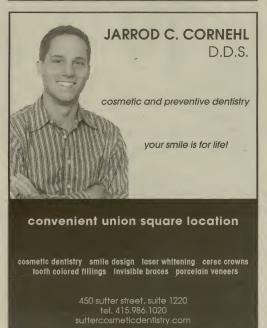
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Who we are is not an issue to be debated! Who we are is God's gift to be celebrated!

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Sunday, June 26th, 5:30 PM Come celebrate the Eucharist at our booth!

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Heart of darkness

by Dale Carpenter

e've made so much progress over the past four decades that it's easy to forget how far we still have to go. You can see that in the mar-riage fight, where gay relation-ships are routinely equated with the destruction of civilization. But you can see it more clearly,

I think, in day-to-day life.

I live in Minneapolis, one of the most politically liberal places in the country. Minnesota has a statewide law protecting gays from discrimination in employment. in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Minneapolis has three openly gay city council members, the largest the country of any major city in the country. A Republican could-n't get elected dogcatcher in this town. My employer, the University of Minnesota, offers same-sex domestic partner benefits to em-

Not long ago I briefly dated a guy from San Francisco. He came to visit me in Minneapolis for a long weekend, during which we did all the kinds of things that dating couples do to get to know one another better. We went out to eat. We went to the movies. We went to the zoo. We walked together down the street and in the mall.

He lives in the Castro and when he dates people he's used to holding their hands, kissing, hugging, showing affection in dozens

of little ways. And he gives no thought to doing these things in public places. Yet when we did these things in public in liberal Minneapolis, the reception we got ranged from cold disapproval to onen hostility. open hostility.

In one of my favorite restau-

In one of my favorite restaurans, while we were waiting in line to order, he hugged me from behind and stayed there. The wait-staff shot us nervous looks, like perhaps we might start sodomizing each other right next to the lamb kebobs. Some guy walked by singing to his nortable. CD player, and portable CD player, and spelled out the word "G-A-Y" as if it was

OutRight

part of the song.
Driving in my car
back from the movies I put my
arm around my date's shoulders. During the drive several other drivers slowed down to take a look at wers slowed down to take a look at my car, a 1959 Chrysler Windsor. When they noticed my arm around him their attitude changed. The nice ones pointed us out to their friends and laughed derisively, then sped ahead. A cou-ple of carloads of young men were more menacing, throwing paper cups and even bottles of beer at

my car.

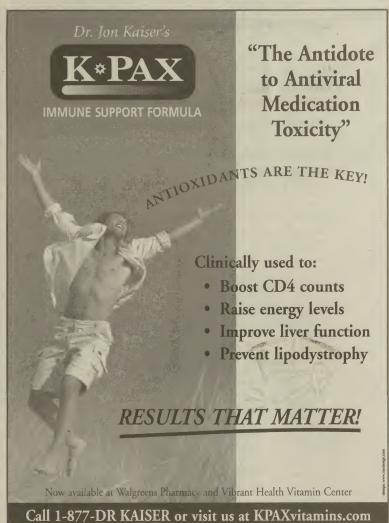
At the zoo, walking down the street, and in the mall, we held hands at several points (always at my date's initiative). Each time we got nasty looks. We would pass someone, then I'd turn my head and see that they were looking back at us and whispering to each other. Parents turned their children away from seeing us, as if we were contagious, harmful on

All in all, in the space of a few days, things like this happened more times than I can count. At the end of the weekend, I apologized to him. I was embarrassed. I felt terrible that I brought him out of a place where he could be him-self to a place where being himself meant living with a constant sense of low-level danger. There was, it seemed obvious to me, no way I could ever ask him to leave San Francisco to come to this place. There being no future, we stopped

dating.
Sad as I was about that, I was mostly stunned. I had not experienced anything like it in the five years I'd lived in Minneapolis. Had these things really happened in my cocoon of tolerance and ac-ceptance, my liberal bastion? Had it been a fluke, an unlucky week-end of chance encounters with the

only knuckle-draggers around? Then it dawned on me why all this had happened while he was in Minneapolis, but not before. In previous dating relationships, all with men from the area, my dates and I had censored our public conduct in ways to avoid these problems. Little or no hugging, or hand-holding, or other obvious signs of affection in public. We had held back without even realizing what we were doing. It was second nature to us. My San Francisco date, however, hadn't been properly trained in this way. He had initiated each of these shame-

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Making history on Wall Street



nbers of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange Monday, June 20. The event marks the first time that a gay organization has participated in the tradition, and was timed to coincide with Pride celebrations taking part in cities

ls everybody gay

by Katharine Holland

he Pride Parade has grown into a five-hour event. Take a look at the lines around the block at the Castro Theatre now that Frameline is in full swing. You have to wonder – is everybody gay? For this weekend, here in San Francisco, it is okay to be gay for everyone. Visitors from all over the world get to taste what we

savor all year long. This is the city that elected one of the first open-ly gay assemblymen in the history of California - Mark Leno, We of California – Mark Leno. We line our streets with rainbows rather than yellow ribbons. Welcome diversity! Enough said. I need

to go figure out my Dykes on Bikes outfit.

Gav dollars

It takes about \$1 million to but on the

put on the Pride Parade each year. In its 35th year, many sponsors return year after year. Principal sponsors include the San Francisco Chronicle, **Q Tele**vision Network, Bud Light, and Delta Airlines. "The power of the gay consumer ... in mainstream marketing, everyone is studying gay spending and it's through the roof – especially in tourism," said Nancy Norstad of Flaunt Nancy

Norstad and business partner
Jim Skiba are releasing the first
gay dollar coin, which
commemorates the 40th
anniversary of San Fran-

cisco's Imperial Court and honors its founder Jose Sarria, Empress I, Dowager Widow Nor-ton. It is the first

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memorating both the unique history of San Francisco and its LGBT community. Selling at \$9.95 each, plus tax and shipping, a portion of each coin sold goes to the **GLBT His-torical Society**'s campaign to re-locate to the Harvey Milk Memo-rial Branch of the San Francisco

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Past. Present. Future.

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

t is often hard, as a transgender person, to feel that you are making progress. I have been an activist within the transgender community for well over a decade. To some, I am well beyond my "sell by" date, remaining in the fray while so many others have long since moved on to other interests.

since moved on to other interests.
You may wonder what keeps
me going, I simply have a passion
to see this nascent community
continue to grow in strength. To
be honest, I think we can look
back and see change within
our history, and easily compare it to where we may be
going.

I'm not going too far back, into discussing Lord Cornbury, Pope Joan, Con-tessa d'Eon, Jean d'Arc, or other potential trans-

potential trans-gender folks through history. This column is only so long, and Leslie Feinberg already did a perfectly suitable book covering centuries of history. No, I'm only go back to the last century, and considering where things were in the post-World War II world.

This was a time when the transgender community – if I could even refer to it as such – was indistinguishable from the rest of the queer community. If we go back far enough, there really wasn't a distinction between the various portions of the community, if only because we were all small and



hidden: we needed as many allies

In the years immediately fol-lowing Stonewall – an event that included transgenders along-side with the rest of the

larger community - transpeople made great strides, turning away a number of anti-cross-dressing laws while also winning the right

to change gen-der markers on identity paper-work and even **Transmissions**

the right to marry, at least in a siz-able number of states.

This was not to remain: by the mid-1970s, transgender people were being removed from Pride parades, transwomen were being routinely shut of out lesbian spaces, and by the latter parts of the decade society overall was increasing in intolerance toward all parts of the LGBT community. It would be another decade before transgender people would again – rather grudgingly, at times – be welcomed back

into the greater community.

Today, there remain some places where being transgender is

still viewed with suspicion within the larger community, with the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival still clinging to outdated policies, and transgender people still facing an uphill battle toward acceptance in some community spaces. Even with this, transgender people are largely included within each of the major queer organizations (barrango progenizations). major queer organizations (barring some remaining issues with the Human Rights Campaign), and most local groups include "transgender" in their mission statements and the like.

The same is true in the world at large. With the current strength at large. With the current strength of the conservative right, and sometimes-lukewarm acceptance from our allies, some have been loathe pushing for transgender rights. Likewise, defense of marriage laws have undermined transgender marriage rights, and the current administration has paved the way for the loss of identity paperwork alterations. perwork alterations.

Nevertheless, the community continues to win victories, largely with local and state gains with antidiscrimination and hate crime laws. For the first time, a pending federal hate crime bill, in the House of Representatives, includes transgender people.

Perhaps more important, the transgender community is gaining increased visibility, and is getting more chances to educate others. Transgender-themed news stories are carried in major media outlets on a regular basis, and much of this coverage is positive.

One of the other benefits of

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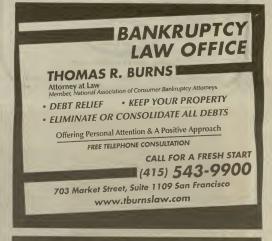


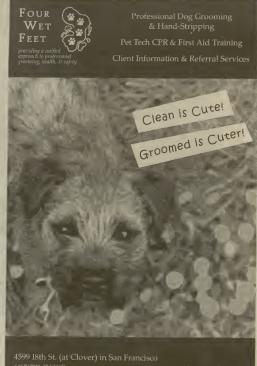


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\$45 INITIAL VISIT

House nixes medical pot amendment

by Liz Highleyman

ollowing the U.S. Supreme Court's June 6 ruling that the federal government may prosecute medical cannabis pa-tients and providers under the Controlled Substances Act, medical marijuana advocates suffered another defeat last week.

On June 15, the House of Representatives failed to pass an amendment to the Department of Justice appropriations bill for the next fiscal year, which would have barred the use of federal funds to conduct raids against cannabis pa-tients and providers in states with medical marijuana laws. California and nine others states currently have such laws on the books.

The bipartisan measure, sponsored by Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-New York) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-California), was defeated by a vote of 161-264. Hinchey emphasized the compassion angle, stating, "Taxpayer money should not be used to arrest cancer and AIDS patients." Rohrabacher focused on states' rights, echoing the position ex-pressed by the minority of Supreme Court justices in the re-cent *Gonzales v. Raich* decision. cent Gonzales v. Kaich decision.
One hundred forty-six Democrats
voted in favor of the amendment,
compared with just 15 Republicans. Two-thirds of the California delegation supported the measure.



Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi speaks at a rally last week in support of medical marijuana

Advocates were encouraged that the amendment has steadily that the amendment has steadily gained congressional support. Thirteen more representatives voted in favor of this year's mea-sure than supported an identical amendment last year. "While we're disappointed that the amendment did not pass, a

record 161 House members voted today to stop arresting medical marijuana patients," said Rob Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project. "The momentum is clearly on our side, and we'll keep fight-ing until Congress listens to the American people and ends this cruel and needless war on the sick."

The slow shift in opinion is moving legislators closer to the views of their constituents. Nationwide polls have consistently found that a majority of the public supports medical cannabis, in-cluding 72 percent of seniors in an AARP poll earlier this year. Most recently, in a survey of

732 registered voters interviewed by telephone June 8-11, 68 percent of respondents said the federal of respondents said the federal government should not prosecute medical marijuana patients, and 65 percent said adults should be permitted to use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor recommends it; only 20 percent support the federal government's position that cannabis use should remain illegal even for medical purposes. Medical cannabis patients received the support of a majority of Democrats, Republimajority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents polled. The poll was commissioned by

The poll was commissioned by MPP and conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research.

Although federal drug czar John Walters said earlier this month that the Raich verdict "marks the end of medical marijuna exp. arabitical icura" drug. juana as a political issue," advo-cates are determined to keep up the struggle, focusing at the grass-roots level.
"Neither Congress nor the

Supreme Court has ended the pain and suffering of thou-sands...so we continue to fight the good fight," said Steph Sherer of Americans for Safe Access. "For many of our members, including Angel Raich and Diane Monson [plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case], this fight is taking time and energy away from their real fight, the fight to stay alive and the fight to defeat pain."

Local support

San Francisco Representative Nancy Pelosi (D) took a strong stand in favor of the Hinchey-Rohrabacher amendment, reflecting overwhelming popular sup-port in the city for California's medical marijuana law, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Proposition 215). "We must not make criminals

of seriously ill people," said Pelosi during the floor debate last week, noting the impact of the AIDS epidemic on her district. "It is not epidemic on her district. "It is not a crime to be ill. ... People who seek this therapy should be able to receive it. It is long past time for us to base our policies on science, not misguided politics."

In San Francisco, Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Beyan

Dufty, Sophie Maxwell, Jake Mc-Goldrick, and Aaron Peskin Goldrick, and Aaron Peskin cosponsored a resolution pro-posed by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi supporting the Hinchey-Rohrabacher amend-ment and calling on Pelosi "to use all resources at her disposal" to help nass measure.

help pass measure.
"While the Bush administration pours billions of dollars into the Iraq morass, it needs to stop using scarce federal dollars to criminalize medical cannabis here at home," Mirkarimi said.

Raich fallout

In the wake of the Supreme Court decision, state and city offi-cials continue to affirm their sup-port for California's medical mar-

"The position of the San Francisco District Attorney's office remains consistent: We will not prosecute people who use or sell marijuana for medicinal purposes," wrote city District Attorney Kamala Harris in the June 15 issue of the San Francisco Bay Guardian. "As the chief law en-forcement official of this great city, it is my duty to protect the most vulnerable among us from harm. That includes those who sick and seek care through medicinal marijuana. I pledge to continue this important work."

Most medical cannabis dispen-

saries in the Bay Area remain in operation. In fact, a few new outlets have recently opened in San Francisco, despite a moratorium imposed by the Board of Supervi-

imposed by the Board of Supervisors in late March.

However, on the day of the Raich verdict, Los Angeles and federal officials froze the assets of federal officials froze the assets of the state's largest medical cannabis operation, Compassionate Care-givers. In addition to its West Hol-lywood dispensary, which was raided in March, Compassionate Caregivers also runs outlets in sev-eral other cities, including Oak-land and San Francisco (Mission Street Caregivers). As of last week, all locations were closed: Comall locations were closed; Compassionate Caregivers manager Sparky Rose estimated the closures impacted some 15,000 patients and 225 employees. ▼

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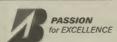






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New immigration bill unveiled

by Bob Roehr

teve Boullianne and Olivier
De Wulf have been together
for a dozen years, first in Belgium and then in San Francisco.
They adopted Rece and Laurent at six months and six weeks of age re spectively. But the laws of the two countries are threatening to tear apart this happy nuclear family. De Wulf can only obtain a two-

De Wulf can only obtain a two-year visa to live in the U.S. and the periodic threat of deportation looms over their heads. Belgium recognizes gay marriages, so the couple could live there, but it does not recognize their adoption and hence their children.

hence their children.
"Ever since September 11th
we've been having difficulties
maintaining Olivier's visa, having
it removed and having to leave the
country quite quickly. We'd like it
to stop," Boullianne said. "We
think it's important for our kids to
be raised in the stable and wonderful community where we live
now and not have our family now and not have our family threatened by deportation." The family came to Washing-ton to support the Uniting Amer-



Rep. Jerold Nadler, left, with Steve Boullianne and Olivier De Wulf, with Laurent and Reece on their respective shoulders, at Tuesday's news conference

ican Families Act (HR3006), inican Families Act (HR3006), in-troduced by Representative Jer-rold Nadler (D-New York). An earlier version of the legislation was known as the Permanent

Partners Immigration Act. "The United States should not indulge in wanton, gratuitous cru-elty," said Nadler, who added that his bill "helps to address one of the many areas where unfair and unequal treatment creates undue hardships for gay and lesbian U.S. citizens." It will treat a gay or lescitizens. It will treat a gay of res-bian permanent partnership the same as a civil marriage between a man and a woman for visa and immigration purposes. "My bill would add the term

'or permanent partner' to the term of 'spouse' everywhere that

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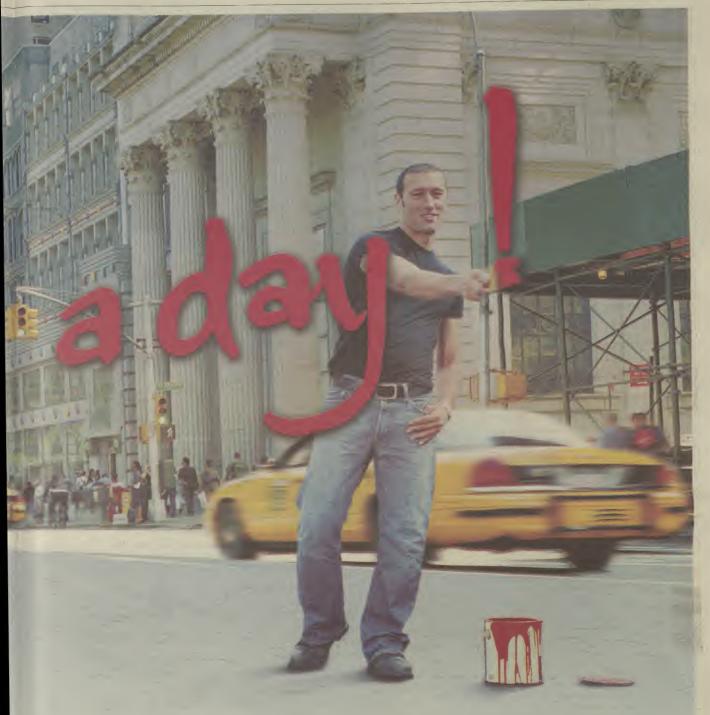
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INDICATION: TRUVADA is for use in combination with other anti-HIV agents to treat HIV infection in adults. TRUVADA contains two medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), combined in one tablet.

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- TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection. No studies show the effect of TRUVADA on the clinical progression of HIV. TRUVADA should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- Lactic acidosis (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness
- Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow



- Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection: If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your healthcare provider
- Kidney problems: If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- Bone changes: It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

- TRUVADA should not be used with Combivir®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, Trizivir®, or VIREAD
- Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx EC®, Reyataz®, or Kaletra® with TRUVADA

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Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood), Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.

 You feel very weak or tired.

 - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain

 - Tou have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
 You have trouble breathing.
 You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
 You feel dizzy or lighthreaded.
 You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.

 Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.

 Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).

 Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.

 You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.

 You feel skick to your stomach (nausea).

 You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
 You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.
 TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection. Patients infected with both HBV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

WHAT IS INCURADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DP) combined in 1 pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 are older TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 are older TRUVADA.

three age for a destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load), TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells), Lovering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are penumonia, herpes wus infections, and Mycobacterium avium complex (MAC) infection. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA? Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn
 child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you
 use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the
 TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.
- have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider

- COMBIVIR*, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR*, EPIVIR-HBV*, EPZICOM*, TRIZIVIR*, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be
- CUMBUTAL THOSE medicines.
 Prugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA.
- amount or VIDEA in your lobour tear may and VIDEX together.

 REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/litonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
 TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not** take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your are not sure what to anti-HIV medicines.
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy.
 This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
 If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- Do not breast-feed. See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV
- infection to others.

 Do not share needles or other injection equipment.

 Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR, EPIVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. TRUVADA should not be used

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information Ishould know about TRUVADA?"):

- Lactic acidosis (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and
 may need to be treated in the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic
 acidosis. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information! should know about TRUVADA?")
 - "Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection, in which the
 disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you
 stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition
 for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and
 HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B
 University infection.
 - Kidney problems. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.

Changes in bone mineral density thinning bones). It is not known whether long-term use of TRUNADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines.
These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and
around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause
and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizzines, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

Truvada

age emtricitabine - tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

- Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children
- . Store TRUVADA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA hat is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www.TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing 1

January 2005

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Business Briefs

■ page **14**

Public Library.

Public Library.
"In San Francisco, every merchant knows the value of the gay dollar. If you come in and you're openly gay, no one would look at you funny," Norstad said.
Norstad's Castro Visitor's Guide, a map for shoppers in the Castro, comes out this week. To buy a copy of the commemorative dollar, so, to www eavdollars from

dollar, go to www.gaydollarsf.com or call (415) 789-0833.

Sweat through Pride

When I came out 11 years ago I wanted an alternative to the bars and found one at the FrontRunand round one at the Frontkun-ners running and walking club. The 26th annual Pride 5K run/walk and 10K run will be held Saturday, June 25 at 9.a.m. at the Saturday, June 25 at 9 a.m. at the south entrance to the Polo Field in Golden Gate Park. A barbeque, music, and awards follow the event. The cost is \$30 on race day and you get a T-shirt. Proceeds to benefit Family Builders by Adoption and the UCSF AIDS Health tron and the UCSF AIDS Health Project. Business sponsors include FullBloom Baking Company, Amaris Retreat & Training Center at Half Moon Bay, Dennis Nix and Eric Ball of Mass Mutual Financial Group, Brian Hill of MondoBox, Jack Su of Zip Re-alty and yours truly of Coldwell Banker Real Estate. For information visit www.sfpriderun.org.

The long-awaited Castro community benefits district may soon be a reality, according to District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**. Now in its final stage of approval, property owners in the Castro commercial district will soon vote on the measure. Then a board will be formed to run the district, which would make funding decisions on issues such as marketing/promo-tion, cleanliness, and improve-ments such as adding flower boxes and trees and graffiti abatement. Dues would range from \$200 to \$2,000 annually.

"I'm really encouraged by the support we've received by proper-ty owners and merchants. I think the community benefits district offers both a vision and resources to make the greater Castro com-mercial district vibrant, clean, safe and inviting," Dufty said. As an initiator of the campaign to relocate the historical society to

the Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, look for Dufty riding on the GLBT Historical Society float in the Pride Parade.

Transitions

The owners of Mecca are negotiating with Castro Venture Partners, the group that also owns the Bagdad Café, to sell the restaurant. The deal should be fi-nalized by the end of the summer. The new owners want to keep the restaurant at 2029 Market Street

the same as it is now. **Howard Thornton** is the new retail director at Under One
Roof, the AIDS organizations'
nonprofit store at 549 Castro
Street. "As we expand our retail
operations, it will be important to
have someone with Howard's experience and creativity in the leadership role," said Under One Roof Executive Director **Mike Marshall**. Thornton beat out 30 applicants nationwide and previously served as interim executive director before Marshall was hired earlier this year. ▼

Katharine Holland is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, specializing in residential and investment properties in San Francisco. You can reach her at khsf@att.net, (415) 447-8849, or www.katharineholland.com

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OutRight

◄ page 12

less, heedless displays and I had somewhat nervously gone along with them. He felt free in a way I never have.

What does this atmosphere do to gay people living outside a few square blocks of freedom in a few big cities? What effect does it have

on their chances of forming lasting relationships? How often, when they need a touch of reassurance, do straight couples hold hands? How often do husbands nands? How often do husbands lean over and plant a kiss on their wives? These gestures, mild and routine as they are, help sustain a relationship. Yet for gay couples they are at least a social faux pas, perhaps an invitation to abuse. The truth is, there's a deep

aversion to gay people that will not be eliminated by enlightened laws. It's a gut-level disgust that defies rationalization, that resists education, that fears without thinking. The laws that govern our lives are not written on statute books; they are written on hearts. And the heart of this country, in the heart of this country, is still darker than many of us had hoped it would be by now. ▼

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Immigration bill

◀ page **18**

term is found in the Immigration and Naturalization Act," he added,

The bill defines the term as "any person over 18 years of age who: is in a committed, intimate relationship with another individual 18 years of age and over in which both parties intend a life-long commitment; is financially interdependent with that other in-dividual; is not married or in a permanent partnership with any-one other than that individual; is unable to contract with that other unable to contract with that other individual a marriage recognizable under [the Immigration and Naturalization Act]; and is not a first, second, or third degree blood relation of that other individual.

"It is not a marriage bill, it is not interest to be a marriage bill."

intended to be a marriage bill," Nadler said in explaining how it avoids becoming caught up with the Defense of Marriage Act. Some opponents have called it a backdoor approach to gay marriage. But Nadler says that is a red herring; he

believes that most of the opposition

"More than 15 other nations have recognized permanent partnerships for the purposes of immigration, and it is time that the United States do so as well," Nadler said. "A diverse coalition of

Nadier said. A diverse coalition of advocacy groups, religious organizations, and companies support this legislation."

Adam Francoeur, program coordinator with Immigration Equality, shared the story of two women he identified only as Sandra and Veronika. Veronika was expelled when her visa expired and she returned to Hungary with their two children, who are having problems adapting to a new lan-guage. Sandra is in the process of selling their belongings to join the family. He said such stories "are all too common."

"U.S. immigration policy is based on the principle of family uni-fication, indeed, nearly 65 percent of all green card applications are fami-ly-based. Sadly, we know that lesbian and gay couples are treated as less than equal," Francoeur said. "We hear of two men in Mass-achusetts, who, despite the fact that they are legally married in that state, are forced to spend more than half of their year apart because one of them is not an American citizen," said Christo-pher Labonte, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign. "No person should have to

"No person should have to choose between their country and the person they love," Labonte added. "Yet every year thousands of lesbian and gay couples are forced to separate, give up their homes, their lives, their community, or live

in constant fear of deportation."

Based on the 2002 census, Immigration Equality estimates that the bill might affect 36,000 couples. However, there are reasons to believe the census undercounted

LGBT couples.
Nadler acknowledged that the bill is unlikely to receive a hearing or a vote in this session of Congress. There are 53 cosponsors on the bill and Nadler is confident that he can get more; there were 129 cosponsors to the PPIA in the last session of Congress. ▼

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Bryan Gescuk holds an A.B. degree from Harvard University, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and a Medical Degree from the Boston University School of Medicine.

Solmonese

ing with HRC staff and members and local LGBT leaders as giving people something to rally around and focusing attention on moving

and focusing attention on moving the agency forward.

"We all came together to work on a common goal. My observa-tion is morale is great and people are enthusiastic," he said. "They are exited about the expanded na-ture of the work we do. It has been a unifying couple of months."

Before his arrival, the organi-

zation had already undergone an

administrative restructuring. In-stead of overhauling the staff, Sol-monese is instead adding to two areas of HRC's work he identifies as key: its field operations and a new religious initiative.

The religious project began in January, and by August he hopes to have filled the directors job; he to have filled the directors job; he interviewed top candidates for the post last week and expects to offer the top applicant the job by July 1. Most are leaders of faith, but Solmonese is also looking for someone who has experience either running political campaigns or a nonprofit agency.

"Religion is an issue in our com-

munity we face with both great obstacles and some real opportunities in terms of organizing and educating," he said. "We need to begin to navigate through all of that."

HRC's field program focuses

on grassroots organizing on a state-by-state basis. Solmonese is increasing the budget and staffing for the program and has placed David Smith, HRC's vice president for policy and strategy, in control of it.

'It involves us going out to the states and impacting changes within the states," he said. "We are reviewing what needs to be done in each state." ▼



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CALL 415-502-TEST for more information about HIV/STD testing. For more information on Blow Buddles,

Mass. governor opposes marriage, civil unions

n a move that has left some gay marriage proponents opti-mistic and others fuming, Massachusetts Republican Governor Mitt Romney announced last week that he was shifting his support away from an amendment to ban marriage and create civil unions. Instead, he's now backing a new amendment to ban both marriage and civil unions

By backing the newly proposed amendment to the state's constiamendment to the states consti-tution, Romney inevitably pulls some support away from the orig-inal amendment, which is up for its final vote in the Legislature

Romney supported the original amendment, passed by a 105-92 vote, during last year's consti-92 vote, during last year's consti-tutional convention. Following the November 2004 elections, its support appeared to be further narrowed, though neither side is confident enough to predict how the measure's second and final legislative vote this year might

If the original amendment passes at this year's constitutional convention, it will go to voters in November 2006.

Even though the newly proposed ban on marriage and civil unions is seeking to go straight to voters, the earliest it can reach the ballot is November 2008. Proponents will have to gather 65,825 nents will have to gather 65,825 voter signatures and garner the support of 25 percent of the Legislature this year and next in order to put it on the ballot.

In announcing his support for the new proposal during a June 16 news conference, Romney said he is concerned the original executed.

news conterence, rothiney said he is concerned the original amendment is "somewhat confused or muddied." He said his main objection to the original amendment is its establishment of civil union recognition. A spokesperson told reporters the governor originally supported the existing proposal only because it was the only acceptable option on the table at the

Most gay political observers believe the more time that passes, the more likely voters will become comfortable with the existence of same-sex marriages in Massachusetts and the more likely they will reject a constitutional amendment banning them.

what the new proposal does do is provide an opportunity for same-sex marriage opponents to eventually ban both marriage and civil unions regardless of whether the existing proposal is successful.

Contrary to some early reports, the proposed new amendment does not seek to invalidate same-sex marriages already licensed in the state. Thus far, more than 6,000 same-sex couples have obtained marriage licenses in Massachusetts since the state began issuing them May 17, 2004.

A number of gay organizations criticized Romney's move, characterizing it as an effort on his part to win the more conservative factions of the Republican Party in his expected bid for the 2008 pres-

idential nomination.

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans and a former state legislator from Massachusetts, criticized the campaign for the newly proposed



Mass. Governor Mitt Romney

amendment as a "last gasp" effort by the "far right" in Massachu-

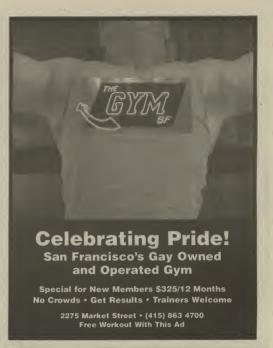
Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, which has led the legislative fight against antigay amendments, said the new pro-posal "will definitely make it easi-er" to defeat the original constitutional amendment in the Legisla-ture this year, but only if the gay marriage opponents "decide to push aggressively for the 2008 bal-

"However, we're not convinced that they are really going to stop pushing" for the original amend-ment in the 2005 constitutional ment in the 2005 constitutional convention. She noted that only one antigay legislator attended the press conference last week announcing the new amendment, "so we believe that other legislators are still pushing for the 2005 and 2006 ballot question."

Isaacson said she believes the Vote on Marriage coalition that is leading the drive for the new amendment did not include a provision to invalidate already li-

provision to invalidate already licensed same-sex marriages be-

page 30 ▶



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News briefs

◆ page 4

for LGBT families presented by Spectrum Center for LGBT Concerns, Rainbow Families of Marin, and IHOP takes place Marin, and IHOP takes place Saturday, June 25 starting at 9 a.m. at the IHOP Restaurant, 1825 Fourth Street, in San Rafael. Gift bags will be provided for kids and IHOP will provide breakfast for children 12 and under who arrive by 9 a.m. and order from the kids' menu. Adults order from the full menu and pay separately. Reservations and pay separately. Reservations can be made by calling (415) 457-1115, ext. 206 or visit www.spectrummarin.org for more information.

HIV testing

Just in time for National HIV Testing Day on Monday, June 27, lesting Day on Monday, June 27, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation has announced that its newest rapid HIV testing program has opened at the Ark of Refuge/AHF Magic Johnson Clinic, 1025 Howard Street in San Francisco This testing site is geared to serve the transgender community. Regular testing hours at this location will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Fridays from noon to 8

to 7 p.m., Fridays from noon to 8 p.m., and by appointment.

The testing site is the newest program in AHF's partnership with the Ark of Refuge, a provider of support services for underserved populations in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 861-6130. ▼

Safety at Pride

⋖ page **6**

aware of surroundings, even in large crowds.

Additionally, at bars and par-ties, never leave a drink unattended or sip from someone else's bev-

ed or stp from someone else's beverage.

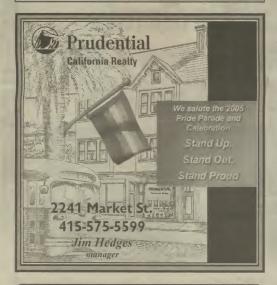
Those attending crowded celebrations are also encouraged to carry whistles.

"People should blow their whistles if they witness violence or harassment, and that signals others to call 911 or to get help," said D'Elia.

CUAV will be handing out free.

CUAV will be handing out free whistles during Friday's Trans March, Saturday's Dyke march, and Sunday's Pride activities. ▼







Transmissions

today is a sizable – and growing – number of highly competent individuals and organizations focusing on the rights of transgender people. It is always heartening to know that when one stands up for rights, they are not standing alone.

All of this makes me rather confident about our future. In spite of the obstacles we still face.

spite of the obstacles we still face, I can now foresee things that would have been mere pipe dreams a decade ago.

It is likely that by the next

decade, issues of transgender in-clusion within the larger community will at last be an issue of the past. If anything, much of the heavy lifting is complete, with the majority of people understanding why transgender people are in the community, and most showing a

willingness to work together.

I also feel it will be only a matter of time before we see transgender-inclusive hate crime and antidiscrimination laws in a majority of states. It may still be some time before we see those laws at the federal level, but we may see that eventually achieved, or made that eventually achieved, or made largely moot given wins at the state level. While we still face a seemingly uphill battle over rights that had previously been secured, I strongly suspect that we can se-cure these, particularly once we see a change in the administration

see a change in the administration—one cannot move the unmovable, yet the fight for civil rights will not, and cannot, cease.

Meanwhile, I see transgender organizations becoming vibrant, strong forces for continued community growth. We already have a number of new transgender activists coming up from the ranks, many of whom will grow into

some of our strongest leaders.

I do not know if we will see society fully embrace transgender people in my lifetime, but I could see a time when transgenders are viewed as simply another part of human diversity, rather than some see the group out on the fringer. rag-tag group out on the fringes, deserving of both scorn and pity

versus true acceptance.

I've seen this community go from nearly nothing, when I first started to look for others like me at the start of the 1990s, to the strong community that has a rich future ahead. It is this future that gives me the strength to continue to be involved. Indeed, it is our past, present, and future that makes me nothing but proud to be transgender. ▼

Gwen Smith does not live in the past tense. You can find her online at www.gwensmith.com.



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Crystal meth continues to stalk gay communit

by Bob Roehr

se of crystal methampheta-mine within the gay commu-nity in Los Angeles has near-ly doubled over the last four years, according to a report released at the 2005 National HIV Prevention conference last week in Atlanta

The study involved 19,000 men who went to the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center to be tested for HIV. Those who tested negative increased their use of crystal from 5.5 percent in 2001 to 9.4 percent in 2004; while those who tested positive went from 11.7 percent to 30.2 percent.

A study conducted in Chicago in September and October of last year September and October of last year interviewed 162 men who have sex with men (MSM) who were newly diagnosed with HIV. It found that 30.2 percent had used meth within the last six months. They were more likely to be white, better educated, and have higher income levels. That reflects what other smaller studies are showing and what physicians say they are seeing in their practices in other cities.

Gay men use crystal metham-phetamine "because it makes them feel sexy and they feel that it enhances their sexual behavior," said Grant Colfax, a leading re-searcher on the subject with the San Francisco Department of Public Health

Biologically, meth "enhances



Researcher Grant Colfax

the release of neurotransmitters. especially dopamine, and this re-lease is associated with increased lease is associated with increased energy, increased libido, and in-creased feelings of invulnerabili-ty," added Colfax. Meth and co-caine have similar neurological effects, though meth's half-life – the time that it stays in the body – is 12 hours, compared with one hour for cocaine. And crystal costs significantly less. Both factors contribute to its popularity.

"Only 0.3 percent of the U.S.

population reports using meth at least weekly ... but that's over half a million people," Colfax said. More importantly, use is concentrated within the population of men who have sex with men, where the rate uals. Surveys in individual cities have shown rates of weekly use that range from 2 percent to 6 percent, and 10 percent to 20 percent of MSM report having used meth within the last 12 months.

"Multiple studies over the last 10 years have shown that methamphetamine is associated with increased risk behavior – increased numbers of sex partners, increased unprotected sex acts, increased risks of sexually transmit ted diseases, and increased risk of HIV infection," Colfax noted. Meth use is independently associated with a doubling or tripling of risk behavior.

risk behavior.

There does not appear to be a dose response between using crystal and increased risky sexual behavior, "there is a cliff that you fall off — if you are using drugs at all, you are much more likely to engage in sexually risky behavior... There is no 'safe' use of meth," he said.

Gay men have patterns of frequent heavy alcohol use that are similar to heterosexuals (9 percent versus 8 percent), but they are much

versus 8 percent), but they are much more likely to combine alcohol use with an alphabet soup of street drugs, said David Purcell, a behav-ioral scientist with the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

Admissions to addiction centers for methamphetamine abuse increased five-fold over the period 1992-2002. But the experts still do

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Researcher seeks gay male couples

by Matthew S. Bajko

an Francisco AIDS researchers are looking to in-terview 450 gay male couples as part of an ongoing study on open relationships. Simply called the Gay Couples Study, the research is examining the agree-ments couples make on having outside sex partners and what rules, if any, regarding safe sexu-al practices govern those sex en-counters.

Enrollment in the study began
June 1 and the research team
hopes to complete the interviews
by the end of the year. The study by the end of the year. The study began three years ago and the first set of data was published this past February in Focus, the AIDS Health Project's monthly publication, after being presented last summer at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok.
"Couples really have been

"Couples really have been overlooked in HIV prevention research. We just don't know very much about it at all," said Colleen Hoff, a UCSF researcher for the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, who is leading the study. "It is very quedue"

Studies, who is leading the study. "It is way overdue."
In San Francisco, health officials estimate 40 to 50 percent of the 60,000 gay male residents are in a relationship. For her research, Hoff is looking at men in relationships of three months or longer. She said research from Europe and other studies show health officials need to pay more burbe and other studies show health officials need to pay more attention to the sexual practices of couples as they fight the spread of HIV. Estimates of seroconversions being attributed to primary partners have gone from 15 percent early in the AIDS epidemic to 67 percent more recently noted Hoff.

"There have been big epi-demiological studies in Europe that have come out and said men getting infected by their



Colleen Hoff is looking to interview gay couples in a new study

boyfriends. A lot of data I have boytrends. A lot of data I have looked at coming out in the U.S. shows an ongoing trend where we found that in behavioral stud-ies guys with a boyfriend have more unprotected sex than single guys," she said. "Those studies say guys," she said. "Those studies say the sex is with each other and it is unclear, as far as the research goes, whether they are doing it with outside partners as well." In 2002, Hoff recruited 38 couples and interviewed each partner individually on whether

partner individually on whether they had an open relationship. One-third of the couples were both HIV-negative, another third were both HIV-positive and the rest were serodiscordant. Hoff discovered that while "negotiated safety agreements" are common among gay couples, HIV prevention is not the motivating factor for the couples having agreements about sex outside the relationship.

"We are really interested in these agreements. For one, people are relying on them and saying negotiated safety is a good thing," she said. "There is some arch out of Australia that has

tried to evaluate negotiated safe-ty agreements. It found that cou-ples who have one are less risky ples who have one are less risky than those that don't, which is good. But it doesn't look at what happens when they break the rules. What happens then? What do couples do? We are looking at all of that stuff?

Many of the couples in the first stage said their agreements were "an integral part" of their relationships and were proud to have relationships different from a heterosexual model. But Hoff said problems can occur when "they have an agreement and talk about it once early on in the rela-tionship and never again. Then they start making assumptions." Serodiscordant couples had

Serodiscordant couples had the most detailed agreements. While the couples focused on safety among themselves, the researchers found that safety outside the relationship "seemed secondary" to safety with each other. In their interviews, these partners "frequently" said the safer sex with outside partners "was a given" or something "that each assumed, without stating, to be true," wrote Hoff.

With HIV-negative partners.

true," wrote Hoff.
With HIV-negative partners,
Hoff noted the agreements were
motivated by a desire for the couple to have unprotected sex within the relationship and trust that
one another would be safe outside it. The HIV-positive partners
made agreements "mainly in
terms of keeping each other from
getting sick," wrote Hoff. But
with outside partners, the HIVpositive men said they were not
responsible for keeping the outside partner safe. side partner safe.

Some couples did encounter "friction," Hoff noted, when the agreements led to jealousy or one partner limited his outside sex to one person, who came to be seen as a second boyfriend. And while most couples wanted to protect

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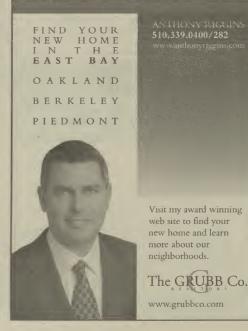
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Trans Pride Awards given out



ne second Trans Pride Awards reception took place Monday, June 20 at the LGBT Comm ter. Honorees included outstanding individual Tamara Ching, outstanding organization the Tom Wad-dell Transgender Clinic, and outstanding ally Dr. Lori Kohler. Above: Violeta Pantaleon, Clara Lysar-Ching, Kohler, JoAnne Keatley, Robin Stukalin, Mark Freeman, Maria Porch, Mary Monihan, Ninette

Horizons launches 'QGiving'

by Kevin Davis

ow the Internet savvy LGBT community can support its struggling but vibrant civil rights, arts, healthcare, and other nonprofits without first finding stamps or writing a check. The Horizons Foundation last

week announced a new online do-nation portal – QGiving – as part of its commitment to increase dior its commitment to increase di-rect financial support to help build a stronger LGBT movement. De-veloped in partnership with Just-Give.org, QGiving lets users search LGBT organizations by category or keyword, learn more about them, and make donations online.

them, and make donations online.
"One thing I would stress, speaking in generalizations, is that LGBT organizations are in a state of almost chronic financial struggle," said Horizons Executive Director Roger Doughty. "And we are taking it as part of our mission to change that reality se that organic change that part of our mission to change that reality so that organizations working for our rights, celebrating our lives, to focus more on their work, and less on being able to pay this month's rent."

QGiving also allows nonprofits to add a link to their Web sites

nations at no cost. JustGive.org deducts 3 percent of the donation to cover its credit card processing costs; it does not keep any of the donations for itself. Horizons is

charging nothing for the service.
"We are unbelievably under-"We are unbelievably under-resourced compared to the reli-gious right that wants to discredit our families in the minds of Americans," said Julie Dorf, Hori-zons' director of philanthropic services and development, who led the collaboration. "Everybody has the resourchibitive give bed." has the responsibility to give back with time and money." ▼

Out for Pride!

ganizer-activist Peggy Moore; phil-anthropic drag queen Juanita More; the Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon; the Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon; charitable drag queen and celebrity diva Donna Sachet; the organization Pets Are Wonderful Support; and fongtime community organizer Empress I Jose Sarria.

The Pride festival at the Civic Center runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and features hundreds of vendor booths, with all-day activity and celebrity.

with all-day activity and celebrity performances on the main stage, located in front of City Hall. The

located in front of City Hall. The festival requests a \$3 donation at the gate, with proceeds going to area nonprofits. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Saturday's main stage lineup is stronger than ever, beginning with a "Stand Against Hate" rally by Community United Against Violence, and a mass domestic particles. lence, and a mass domestic partners ceremony at 2:15 p.m. Other noteworthy performances include the San Francisco Opera at 1:10 p.m.; the Glide Gospel Ensemble at 4:15 p.m.; and an LGBT youth chorus from Vancouver that will perform as part of the GALA Choruses "Sing Out" at 2:45 p.m.

Sunday's main stage features



Three fabulous queens hang out at the Faerie Freedom Village at last year's Pride festival.

headliners Betty at 3 p.m.; American Idol contestant Kimberly Locke at 3:50 p.m.; Third Eye Blind at 4:10 p.m.; and En Vogue at 4:40 p.m. Numerous other performance

Numerous other performance stages and attractions are at Sun-day's festival, including the Asian and Pacific Islander stage, Hairri-son Bear Garden, Leather Alley, Fag Fridays dance arena, deaf and hard of hearing space, an elders

area, Faerie Freedom Village, Family Garden, Homo Hip-Hop Stage, Latin stage, Nectar women's stage, Latin stage, Nectar women's stage, Sundance country western stage, Soul of Pride stage, Shadowplay stage, SwingOUT stage, Tantra Trance stage, Two-Spirit Nations area, Writer's Village, and new this year, Transgender Pavilion.

For more information visit www.sfpride.org. ▼

Mass. governor

◄ page **25**

cause it fears being blamed for "forcing us to get divorced."
"It was a very clever move on their part," said Isaacson, "and we're sure there was a lot of heated discussion about that topic and disagreement among our oppo-nents because many of them real-ly want to eliminate all gay mar-

riages."
"But they know," said Isaacson,
"that would be an antifamily position for them to take."
Isaacson said her group must
now gear up to fight both amendments, an effort that will be "enormously taxing" on the group's re-

Since it is possible both measures could pass, said Isaacson, "We feel we have no choice. We can't give them a free run on this."

The Vote on Marriage coali-

The Vote on Marriage coalition, which includes national groups such as Focus on the Family, plans to gather signatures beginning September 21.

The text of the proposed amendment states that, "When recognizing marriage entered after the adoption of this amendment by the people, the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall define marriage as only the union of one man and one woman." ▼

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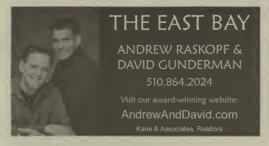
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grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Alexander G. Anagnos

Alexander G. Anagnos died on June 15, 2005 after a valiant struggle with cancer. Alex was well known as an advocate for the mentally ill and was the recent recipient of an award from the San Francisco Health Commission for exceptional service. He will be remembered with great respect and affection by colleagues, patients, and their families. Alex was born January 24, 1951 in Boston, the son of Sylvia Danos Rizk of Canton and George Anagnos of George-

town. He completed Bachelor of Science degrees in Microbiology at The University of Massachusetts and in nursing at Cornell University, as well as a Master of Science in Nursing at UCSF. He was Director of the San Francisco Behavioral Health Center, and Assistant Clinical Professor in the School of Nursing, UCSF.

Mr. Anganos is surgical that the School of Science and Science

ing, UCSE

Mr. Anagnos is survived by his parents and his brother Salom Rizk Jr. A private memorial gathering occurred for family and close friends in San Francisco. A memorial service will be held in Canton, at a later date. Condolences may be sent to his mother, Sylvia Rizk, at 660 Washington St., apartment 109, Canton, MA 02021. Donations may be made in his name to San Francisco Visiting Nursing Service and Hospice.

John M. Farrell

John M. Farrell of San Francisco died June 11th, his body overwhelmed by the complications of long-term AIDS.

AIDS.

Born in 1954 in Bainbridge, Maryland, John earned a B.S. from U.C. Davis and a Master's degree from U.C. Berkeley's School of Public Health. In the early 1980s he was active in politics, served on the Berkeley Citizens Action Steering Committee, the Berkeley Police Review Board, and the Alameda Human Rights Commission. Becoming disendanted with BCA, John left for San Francisco's Hastings College of Law, passed the Arizona and California bars, and practiced for several years.

John had a beautiful smile and a silly

laugh, a fine intellect, and the determi adupt, a file lifect, and the determination to apply it. He was social and athletic, loved horse racing and campy entertainment. A man of character and responsibility, John listed altruism and NO WHINING among his goals. He contributed to a wide variety of charities, and was active in several organizations and support groups.

ties, and was active in several organiza-tions and support groups.

His loved ones grieved as advancing
AIDS circumscribed his life and stole
away his promise. At the last only pain
was left. Even with an excellent doctor,
an informed patient, the newest drugs,
the most rigorous protocols... the best
way not to die of AIDS is not to catch it.
Predeceased by parents who loved
him dearly, John is survived by sisters
Kathy and Carol Ann. They mourn and
miss him, as do his friends. Please carry
on his generosity by donating to charities that serve children, care for the afflicted, and fight disease.

William Austin (Marshall) Reese

William Austin (Marshall) Reese, a retired Registered Nurse and nurse manager, died of colon/kidney cancer at his Bourbon Street home November 23, 2003. Born in Butte, Montana, and a graduate of U.C.L.A., Marshall made his home in San Francisco and New Orleans for many years. Preceded in death by his parents, brother, and longtime companion, Marshall is remembered by his extended family and national circle of friends. A memorial gathering is planned Friday, June 24, 2005 at Cliff House.

Couples study

◄ page **29**

each other, Hoff said their agreeeach other, Hoff said their agree-ments often were too vague about what was considered to be safe behavior. When a partner broke the agreement, more often than not they failed to disclose the lapse to their partner, fearing they would be "hurt, upset, or igalous"

Hoff commends partners for

making the agreements, but advises they should readdress them from time to time. She also recommends couples clearly define what safe sex means to them.

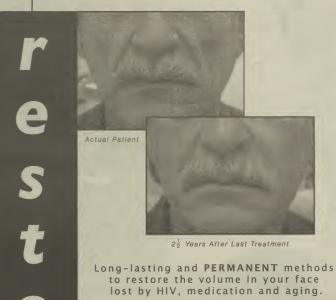
"Agreements may offer cou ples a false sense of security with regard to HIV prevention if they are not explicitly defined. Regu-lar updates should be encouraged

for couples," she noted.

Hoff hopes to present data from the larger study in August 2006 at the next International

AIDS Conference, to be held in Toronto. Couples, whether monogamous or in open relationships, interested in being in-terviewed for the study must be at least 18 years of age and be able to come to the interview at the same time.

The session takes about one hour, and afterward, both partners will receive \$40 for their time. Anyone interested should call 1-888-688-1777 for the location and to set up a meeting. V



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erry Buncher and Stuart Goldstein flirt while swing al Geezers Ball Sunday, June 19 at the Veterans Memorial Building. The event, for those who are "aging and living well," was attended by about 200 people. George Brimisa was presented with the Harry Hay Award for his work as a playwright, bodybuilder, and teacher. The event was hosted by the Stop AIDS Project, Midlife Gay Men, New Leaf Outreach to Elders, and the San Francisco Prime Timers

Crystal meth

⋖ page 28

not have a good sense as to what types of interventions work best.

The Matrix trial enrolled pri-marily heterosexuals into an intense 56-session outpatient program and compared that with a standard outpatient intervention. "Meth use decreased dramatically during the active phase," Colfax said. He candidly added, "People were going to a lot of sessions, they probably didn't have time to use a lot of meth."

use a lot of meth."
However, six months after completing the program, there was no significant difference in the behavior patterns of those who participated in the intense and the standard treatment pro-

Cathy Reback, who's affiliated with the Friends Research Institute, presented data comparing intensive behavioral interventions – 90minute sessions, three times a week, for 16 weeks – that were conducted in West Hollywood. Again, while there were significant differwhile there were significant differences in responses at the end of the 16-week program, generally tied to their intensity and duration, those differences faded away at six months and completely disappeared at 12 months of follow up.

"Just getting someone into treatment reduces their sex risk at four weeks; at one year follow up, it didn't matter what intervention they were in." She said getting people into treatment was half of it.

"You have got to get them the moment they think, 'I've got a problem, I think I need treatment,' because that will go away in four

hours," Reback said. That is why a large portion of their budget goes to advertising and outreach.
"Drugs and sex go together, when you reduce drug use you are going to reduce sexual risk behaviors," she said. She urged people "to move beyond applying treatment interventions in treatment settings and apply treatment interventions in nontraditional settings." in nontraditional settings.

in nontraditional settings?

The physical dependence of substance abuse can be a great barrier to getting clean. Just as methadone has been developed to help users break their heroine habit and the nicotine patch for the property of the p habit and the nicotine patch for tobacco users, so, too, researchers hope to develop a pharmacologic agent to address the powerful biological aspects of addiction to methamphetamine. Clinical trials of bupropion, ritalin, and other drugs are in the works. \blacktriangledown

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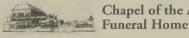
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Out at the old ballgame

'Gay Days' and baseball fans

by Jim Provenzano

hile LGBT fans of Major League Baseball have been going to games for decades, only in the past few years have special event organizers for teams begun to acknowledge these fans. Is the trend a statement of acceptance, or simply a form of

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According to a 2004 New York
Daily News article, nearly half of
baseball's 30 franchises have hosted gay-related events at home games since 2001.

In September 2003, the Chicago White Sox, Philadelphia Phillies, and the Texas Rangers held events at their home games. The New York Mets followed in August

2004. In June 2004, the Toronto Blue Jays held a similar event. The recently aired episode of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* included a makeover of some members of the World Series-winning Boston Red Sox. While not an official "gay day," it brought openly gay celebrities into the sport. Between the campy jokes and the openly gay fashion consultants throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, player Johnny Damon had some encouraging words.

ome encouraging words.
"If there's a gay guy in baseball, we have to help him out," Damon said in a San Francisco Chronicle interview. "I'd smack him on the

interview. "I'd smack him on the butt, just like I do everybody else." Additionally, when Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Joe Valentine revealed that he has lesbian parents, the response was overwhelmingly positive, if not indifferent.

Official gay day events are more often the brainchild of gay male fans, and not created by the team's promotions staff or TV.

team's promotions staff or TV

This year's second annual Pride Night with the Blue Jays, held June 23, included openly gay comic actor Scott Thompson as part of

Toronto resident Mark Kari is one of an increasing number of out gay baseball fans taking the steps to make gay baseball events happen.
At a 2002 Blue Jays event

At a 2002 Blue Jays event honoring Japanese baseball players who had been sent to internment camps in Canada during World War II, but persevered and kept playing, the Japanese-Canadian Kari was inspired.
"Just as I felt proud as the Blue lays presented these honorable

"Just as I felt proud as the Blue Jays presented these honorable Canadians," he said, "I thought that I would feel proud, too, if the Jays presented gay and lesbian heroes."

So, in 2003, Kari contacted the Toronto Blue Jays about having a gay day. In early 2004, he created the Web site www.gaybaseball-days.com as a way to promote Blue Jays gay day, and provide information about other events. "The more public awareness of these events the better," said Kari. "If people realize that almost half the Major League Baseball teams have had such events, they will be encouraged to approach their team about something similar. And teams themselves may feel less wary about having an event if they know many others." an event if they know many others have done them with positive results."

When San Franciscan Carl Stein noticed a (straight) singles night noticed a (straight) singles night listed among the Giants' special events in 2004, he contacted the staff about doing a similar event for the local LGBT community. "They responded very posi-tively, enthusiastically, and quick-ly," said Stein. The first event in 2004 had more than 100 people in

2004 had more than 100 people in attendance. The second event, held in late May 2005, saw over

250 tickets sold. Yet unlike other targeted groups that bought group tickets that day, the LGBT group did not receive a perfunctory mention on the stadium's scoreboard, some-thing that irked Stein, who is a

thing that irked Stein, who is a passionate baseball fan.

R.J. Heaney, another self-described "total" Giants fan, tells of growing up listening to games with his grandmother. He proudly showed images of his office on his cell phone camera which dishis cell phone camera, which dis-plays a desk and walls filled with



Carl Stein, R.J. Heaney, and Rick Peterson at the Giants LGBT singles night



PFLAG Toronto at the 2004 Blue Javs Pride Night baseball game

bleheads," he said. Heaney collects autographs and travels to away games a few times a year.
For Lea "Beez" Schell of Santa
Rosa, the LGBT event is a way for
friends to enjoy a safe night out in a
sports stadium, even if she roots for

Giants "banners, balls, and Bob-

the visiting team.
Wearing a Pittsburgh
Steelers (football)
sweatshirt, she said, "I hated
Pittsburgh when I lived there. But now that I'm away, I love [the Pirates]. And the Giants are cool, but it's always fun to buck against the

system.

When the Oakland A's held such an event at the urging of a gay fan, fewer than 150 of the allotted 600 tickets were sold to LGBT fans, despite special T-shirts being made, and several local AIDS and

Like the Giants, the Florida Marlins have held an AIDS fundraiser game for many years, making for default gay-friendly games. The Giants' "Until There's a Cure Day" has so far raised over \$1 million, with a percentage of ticket sales going to local charities.

Producing an LGBT-specific promotion is not necessarily an endorsement of one community. Only two days after the first "gay' day," the Giants advertised a "Christian Fellowship Night." Some gay events endured protests from Christian fundamentalists, as at a 2003 Rangers game in Dallas. Three hundred game in Dallas. Three hundred protesters, 100 of whom drove 180 miles to the stadium just to protest gay people attending the baseball game, declared a "victory" when their number outranked the gay ticket buyers.

"Initially, it's about money and being applicable or the stady of the stady o

"Initially, it's about money and being politically correct," said Kari. "If a group approaches a team and says 'We want to buy 500-tickets,' how can they say no? If they did say no, they would be seen as discriminating against the LGBT compunity."

seen as discriminating against the LGBT community."

Kari sees the changes from last year, when the Red Sox didn't publicly acknowledge their first gay event, to this year's highly publicized Queer Eye game.

And although the openly gay presence in baseball remains limited to a few celebrities and many fans, Kari sees it as a form of progress. "It's not a big deal anymore; gay moms, gay dads, gay brothers, gay friends," he said. "As these stories come out, there will be less fear for the general public, and make things easier for a player to come out, too."

Jim Provenzano is the author of the novels PINS and Monkey Suits. Read more columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

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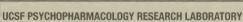
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Call 415-476-7471 for more information (9am-4pm) Call 415-476-7498 to leave a message (24 hours)



UPCOMING EVENTS

International FrontRunners hosts a reception for local and visiting members of the global phenomenon of GLBT running groups; tonight (Thursday, June 23) at 5:30 p.m. at the GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission Street, Suite 300. This is part of the schedule of events coordinated with the IFR annual general meeting. Info at

The FrontRunners pasta party address listed last week is incorrect. It will be held at the Pink Palace, 355 Buena Vista East, on Friday, June 24 from 6 to 10 p.m. Carbs are good for you!

Sports Block

Heads up for this Pride Weekend: Several more sports teams and groups are participating in the parade and the Sports Block organized by Team San Francisco. Check www.teamsf.org for info, and links, and contact info for all local groups.

Want to ride your bike with pride this Sunday? Call Mikes on Want to ride your blike with pride this sunday: Call Mikes of Bikes, the festive cycling contingent. You get to be near the front (somewhere between LifeCycle riders and Cheer SF, I think). Plus, once you get to Civic Center, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition provides free bike parking (just south of the Asian Art Museum). For Mikes on Bikes info, call James at (415) 905-8854. To join the SFBC, visit www.sfbike.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0285590-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285590-00 The following person(s) are doing business as Arcadia Studio, 2453 Lombard St. #101 San Francisco, ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed stabelle Guerin-Groelt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/24/05. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285475-00 THE MENT FILE A-0285475-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:
Golden Catering Truck #333, 201 Crescent
Way San Francisco, Ca. 94.134. This business is conducted by a husband and wife,
signed Jimmy Le. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
57.9705. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/19/05.
JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285633-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285633-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: DeJani Construction, 1300 Fulton St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an Individual, signed Musa Dajani. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/25/05.
JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285649-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285649-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Thai Noodle, 2546 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Buncherd Inkhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/25/05. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285368-00 STATEMENT FILE A-UZ85588-U
The following person(s) are doing business
as: 1,) Pie, 2, Pie logital, 270 Liberty St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed John
Barnhill. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/0105.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.
JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285580-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285580-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Basic 8 Creative, 463 Sanchez St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jason Fuges. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed ficitious business name or names on 47.505. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/24/05. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285680-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: 6 o Go Cafe And Restaurant, 1830 living St. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Jared Miao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/26/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/26/05. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285265-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285265-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Bay Leather, 2701 Taylor St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Seok Yoo. The registrant(s) commenced to trans act business under the above listed fictituous business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/05. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE # CNC 05542095

In the matter of the application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name. The application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michelle Louise Biggs has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle-Louise Souris Biloux Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 2180 nt he 21st day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542098

In the matter of the application of Patrick Joseph McGullam for change of name, The application of Patrick Joseph McGullam for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Patrick Joseph McGullam has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Patricia Lynn McGullam. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the Z6th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542095
In the matter of the application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name. The application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Michelle Louise Biggs has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle-Louise Souris Biloux. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME: #273863
The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
USA Thai Noodle located at 2546 San
Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134.
This business was conducted by a general
partnership signed Buncherd Inkhong. The
fictitious name was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/23/04.
JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285941-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285941-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:
Swaggaville Entertainment, 91.5 Golden Gate
Ave. Apt. K San Francisco, G. 94102. This
business is conducted by an individual, signed
James E. Metts. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/06/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Co. and 6/06/05.
JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285796-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cheri's Fortune Cookle, 937 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94013. This business is conducted by an individual, signed bruang Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/01/05.
JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285523-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285523-00
The following person(s) are doing business:
as: Space Gallery, 1141 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 9410-9. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ray Morrone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 5/20/05. The
statement was filed with the City, and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/20/05.
JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542122

In the matter of the application of Karen S. Becker for shange of name. The application of Karen S. Becker for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application reprosing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Becker. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 225 on the 4th 4dy of August, 2005 at 9700 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286089-00 STATEMENT FILE A-UZ86089-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:
Loads Of Fun Laundromat And Cafe, 141.
Karsas St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This
business is conducted by an individual, signed
Steven R. Lawson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above
listed flictibus business name or names on
N/A. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, 2.a. on 6/13/05.
JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286042-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0286042-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: 1,PGS, 2,PEnvironmental Quality Solutions, 760 Market St, Ste. 947 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Malachowski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/27/94. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/10/05.

JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285958-00 STATEMENT IFILE A-U289Y54-U0
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Raphael, 1483 47th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted
by an individual, signed Raphael Brandsma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/07/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/07/05.
JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286098-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0286098-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Purple Iris Healing Center, 1404
Church St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131.
This business is conducted by a general
partnership, signed Jill IAn Sweringen.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 7/17/00. The
statement was filed with the City and
Country of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/13/15. JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - SIXTH STREET IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM
The Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") is requesting proposals for side-walk cleanThe Redevelopment Agency ("Agency") is requesting proposals for side-walk consists
Street and adjacent streets south of Nationas Street through Clenentina Street. The Agency is
also requesting steam cleaning services on Sixth Street and adjacent streets from Market Street
to Clementina Street. Particular emphasis will be placed on the applicant or applicant's demonstrated successful experience on relevant and comparable projects. This opportunity is open to
all businesses, both for-profit and non-profit. Responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) will
be accepted until Monday, July 11, 2005, 4:00 p.m. To obtain a copy of the RFP packet or if
you have questions, contact Cathy Pickering, Assistant Project Manager, at (415) 749-2509, or
cathyspickering@sfgov.org

VACANCY NOTICE

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at www.stgbov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, SF, CA 94102. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupvrs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/ Commission or Task Force are still available please call 554-5184.

Immigrant Rights Commission
Vacant seat, succeeding Deborah Escobedo, seat 4, term expiring, must have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 6, 2007.

Vacant seats, succeeding Richard Ow, seat 6; Sverlana Kaff, seat 7; Phu Nguyen, seat 8; Anthony Eke, seat 10 and Zina Spector, seat 11, term expiring, must be an immigrant to the United Strates who is appointed in accordance with Section 4.101 of the Charter. In addition, members shall have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 6, 2007.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0285521-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: ShamViews.com, 530 Brannan St. #403 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kenneth O, Jensen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictives business rapmon or promoce on 5/20/05.

tious business name or names on 5/20/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/20/05.
JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE # CNC 05542096

CISCO FILE # CNC 05542096 In the matter of the application of Sylvia Tam for change of name. The application of Sylvia Tam for change of name having oben filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sylvia Tam has filled an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sylvia W. L. Tam—Lee. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of July, 2005 at 970.0 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be oranted. change of name should not be granted JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

STATEMENT FILE A -0.286.193-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Inner Richmond Promotions, 408 Balboa St. San Francisco, Ca. 941.8. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gerene L. Rodgers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictious business name or names on 6/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/16/05. JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286143-00
The following person(s) are doling business as:
Matano Design, 1800 Washington St. #714
San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tsutomu
Matano. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictituous business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 64,505.
JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0286.174-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio School of Management, Building 36, Ste 120, The Presidio, San Francisco, Ca, 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Nathan Joblin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/15/05.

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542233
In the matter of the application of Pooka Keoni Littlemouse for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Pooka Keoni Littlemouse has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Keoni Chavez. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 44th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. name should not be granted.
JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE-OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542250 In the matter of the application of Jenni Eun-Mi Chang for change of name. The application of Jenni Eun-Mi Chang for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jenni Eun-Mi Chang has filed an application that Jenni Eun-Mi Chang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jenni Eun-Mi Zaidi. Now therefore, it is nereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 28th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542048

In the matter of the application of Syed
Hassan for change of name. The application of Syed Hassan for change of name
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Syed Hassan has
filed an application proposing that his/her
name be changed to Syed Hassan Zaidi.
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that
all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the
28th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted. change of name should not be granted JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541940
In the matter of the application of Kian-Chai Goik aka KC Goik for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kian-Chai Goik aka KC Goik Ko theory, and it appearing from said application that Kian-Chai Goik aka KC Goik has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Casey Goik. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 11th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME: #0248789
The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Gnostic Friends Network located at 493
Haight St. #31 San Francisco, Ca. 94117.
This business was conducted by an individual signed Alexander H. Guldbeck. The fictitious name was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Co. on 5/11/10.1 JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #252214
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Bay Leather located at 270.1 Taylor St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business was conducted by an individual signed Mindy Ju. The fictitious name was filed with the City and Country of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/12/01. County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/12/ JUNE 16, 23, 30 JULY 7 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 055422.25 In the matter of the application of Heather Rabine for change of name. The application of Heather Rabine for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application roposing that his/her name be changed to H. Zoe Rabine. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 4th day of August, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cases why the application for change of mane should not be granted. for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 23, 30 JULY 7, 14, 2005

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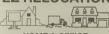
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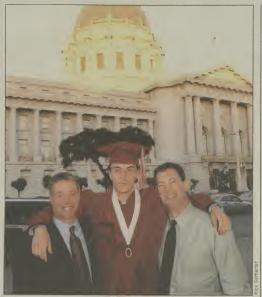
Gay dads who made history share their son's story

by Zak Szymanski

he home of Bill and Tim Matheson stirs with the sounds of two cats and a dog, but echoes with the recent departure of its youngest human both men to get teary eyed when describing how it has been, raising a child and watching him grow up to be a young adult, ready to leave

Seventeen years ago, the Mathesons became the first gay couple in California to adopt a newborn Matheson, 17, graduated high school. A former student of San Francisco's French International School, Zach will spend the sum-mer working in Paris until it is time to leave for Skidmore College in upstate New York in September. Tim and Bill, like many cou-

ples with grown children, are re-discovering their social networks discovering their social networks and enjoying each other as if it were the early days. They hint at being "in their 40s" but border on giggling when pressed for their exact ages. They are thriving in their careers and activities – Bill is an attorney who also sits on the board of Positiva Pescutza Contact an attorney wino also sits on the board of Positive Resource Center, and Tim is a psychologist who works at New Leaf: Services for Our Community and is involved with behavioral research at the Department of Public Health. But it is clear that they are shaped by it is clear that they are shaped by



Tim and Bill Matheson with their son Zach at his graduation from San Francisco's French International School on June 4.

their role as parents, and as gay pioneers whose personal dreams for a family meant having to continuously educate their own commu-

nity and the outside world. It was the 1970s when the couple had their first date, as students

at the University of Denver. Less than a year later they had already combined all their finances, with one person's debt balancing out the other's lower income in a way that made any relationship issues around finances disappear

"We were always completely committed. It made sense to make everything 'ours," said Tim.

The couple moved to San Francisco in 1980. A few years family, broached the topic of children with Bill. Both men were interested in the idea, but "we didn't have any idea how to do it," said

Bill.

Local gay parenting groups tended to be for lesbian moms with biological children or gay dads whose kids were the product of a previous heterosexual marriage. Without any guidance, said Tim, "we did some crazy things," including asking family members to carry a child for them, and approaching a lesbian couple they barely knew about creating a coparenting situation. Eventually the men just told everyone they knew men just told everyone they knew to spread the word about their de-

to spread the word about their desire to start a family. In 1986, they got the call that gave them hope.
"One of my best friends in Los Angeles called and said, 'Are you and Tim still looking to have a child?" remembered Bill.

The friend said his girlfriend was pregnant, and that neither he nor she was in a position to be a parent. That Christmas, the Mathesons took a trip to LA and met with the couple, creating a nonesons took a trip to LA and met with the couple, creating a non-binding contract that outlined their intentions to adopt the baby. The birth mother stayed with the Mathesons several times during the course of her pregnancy. The

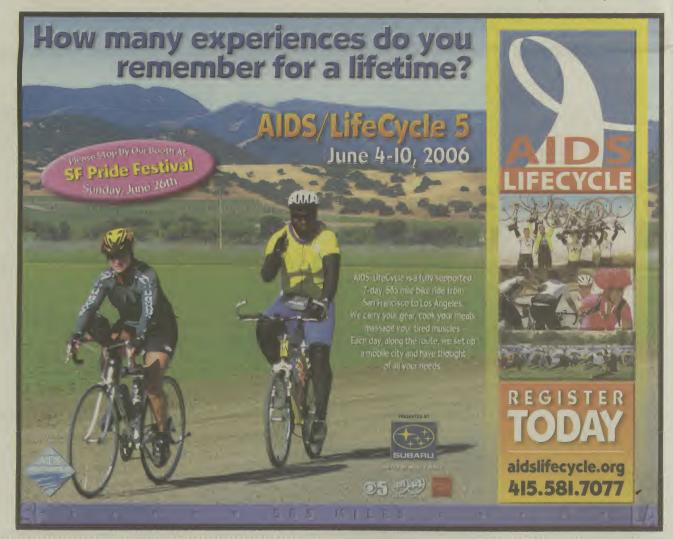


Zach Matheson at his graduation.

Mathesons took Zach home from the hospital shortly after his birth on July 22, 1987. It wasn't until a year later that

they could begin the adoption proceedings; the law allowed the birth mother that much time to change her mind after she signed away her parental rights. But it wasn't smooth sailing from there: wasn't smooth sailing from there: California Governor George Deukmejian, a Republican, had come out strongly against gay adoptions. Had Tim or Bill successfully presented as a single straight father, there would not have been a problem. But they decided to be upfront, and the Department of Social Services gave the couple a highly positive review. Unfortunately, the department also noted the governor's ment also noted the governor's stance as the reason the adoption could not receive a recommenda-tion. Represented by their attor-ney Donna Hitchens – who is now a superior court judge – the men made their case for adoption in

page **76** ▶



Lynice Pinkard: Pastor, therapist, agent for change

by Jason Victor Serinus

ynice Pinkard describes her-self as an African American clergyperson and therapist who has been "out forever and ever and ever." Her life's work in-volves bridging the gaps between spirituality and sexuality in the

A Santa Barbara native, Pinkard's mother was a writer and keyboard player and her father was a pastor in the AME Church. was a pastor in the AME Church. The family moved to the East Bay in 1978 when her father became pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Berkeley. Soon thereafter, Pinkard attended Hampton University, a black college in Virginia, where she became president of the Student Christian Association.

Currently assistant pastor at Oakland's imposing First Congregational Church, Pinkard originally teamed up with the Rev

gational Church, Pinkard originally teamed up with the Reverend Yvette Flunder and another black lesbian pastor over 10 years ago to found City of Refuge. Located in Oakland's Love Center, City of Refuge was the East Bay's first church outside of the predominately gay Metropolitan Community Church to cater to the needs of LGBT people previously subjugated by conservative theology. Much of the church's work involved outreach to people living with AIDS, addiction, alienation, and other manifestations of ation, and other manifestations of

Yvette continues to make un-"Yvette continues to make un-believable inroads into conserva-tive black churches," said Pinkard, 42. "Back then, people were very exclusionary, critical, and even nasty. There was a lot of misogyny and homophobia, triggered by outrage that there were lesbian women in ministry who had the audacity to start their own church and do their own thing indepen-dently."

dently."

During her five years at City of Refuge, Pinkard began attending the Pacific School of Religion.
After receiving her master's of divinity and master's of arts degrees, she earned another degree in counseling from California State Hayward. Amidst it all, she founded her own church, which lasted a year and a half. The congregation was a racial mix of working poor African Americans, fellow seminarians who wanted to hang with

African Americans, fellow semi-narians who wanted to hang with her, activists who were coming to faith, and people of faith who were coming to activism. Pinkard also serves as a pro-gram development specialist for the City and County of San Fran-cisco. In addition to practicing therapy, she works closely with the mayor's office to develop pro-grams that focus on the needs of the African American communi-ty.

"My function is more of a rec-onciler," she explained. "I'm trying

ways that African Americans deal with sexuality and spirituality. The two don't have to be mutually exclusive or opposed, but that is the general view in our communi-

Pinkard traces the body/spirit split in the African American community to the historical degradation of African peoples. To her understanding, the ways in which New World African slaves which New World African stayes were physically degraded led to internalized self-loathing. Not only were people's bodies "used, abused, colonized, and co-opted" by those who owned them, but the history of rape, breeding, and physical appropriation for sexual and economic ends led to African Americans' reluctance to deal head on with issues of sexuality

head on with issues of sexuality and sexual identity.

Because people were sold and families split apart, black people compensated by adopting a rigid approach to gender and a traditional family theology, she said.

"White Protestant Christianity was forced down our throats and we ate it," said Pinkard. "We internalized a lot of Calvinism's puri-

nalized a lot of Calvinism's puri-tanical anti-body and anti-sensu-al thinking, and channeled our self-loathing into rigid ways of

Pinkard's solutions would hardly make President Bush and the pope happy.
"We need to separate ourselves from the dominant paradigm," she declared. The more undomesticatable we are, the better.

"We have to own that we are exiles. Changing the world is not about wanting to belong or fitting

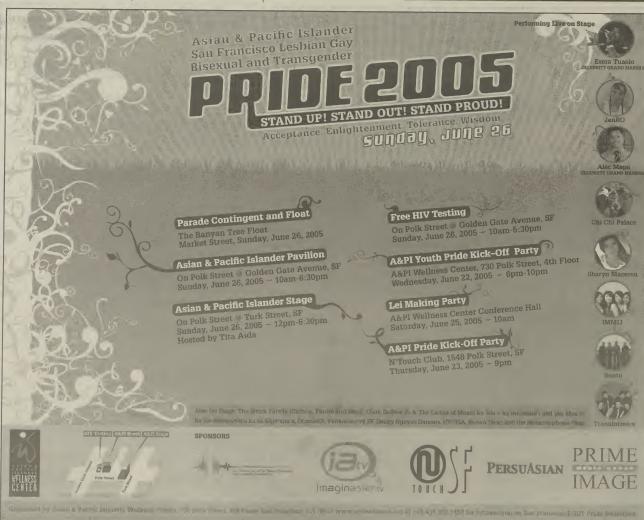
Pinkard's work takes her to Chicago in the days leading up to San Francisco Pride. On June 23, San Francisco Pride. On June 23, she delivers the keynote sermon at Souls a' Fire, a historic gathering of LGBT African American spiri-tual leaders and their supporters entitled "Re-Imagining Black Re-ligious Identity: Race, Class, Gen-der, & Sexuality." Two days later, she helps facilitate "Un-Holy

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Pastor Lynice Pinkard has long worked to build bridges between spirituality and sexuality in the African American community





A CEO on the go

Olivia's Amy Errett juggles business, politics, and her faith

by Cynthia Laird

hen Olivia launched its first cruise in 1990, there were 600 people on board the four-night trip to the Bahamas. It was so popular that another ship was booked to immediately follow, resulting in back-to-back inaugural cruises. Since then, Olivia has provided cruises and other vacation packages aimed primarily at lesbians, to nearly 50,000 women around the world. And the company shows no signs of slowing down.

no signs of slowing down.
Judy Dlugacz, 53, is the president and founder of Olivia. Before branching out into the travel business, Olivia was primarily known as an independent record label that specialized in women artists. Dlugacz has parlayed her connections in the entertainment industry to bring top-name entertainment to the cruises, and the company grew, with estimated revenues of between \$10 and \$12 million.

"It started as a group of 10 people, and became five later, and then I was the sole remaining founder," Dlugacz said.

Then about three and a half years ago, Dlugacz decided that she needed someone to partner with to grow the company, and after what she described as a "lengthy process to find the right person," Amy Errett was hired as Olivia's first CEO.

Errett, 47, is driven. She has a deep sense of commitment to the community, and not just lesbians who are the mainstay of Olivia's client base. Errett is chair of the board of directors of the Glide Foundation, the social service entity of Glide United Methodist Church; and she sits on the national board of the Human Rights Campaign.

"It's probably the best decision

"It's probably the best decision I've ever made," Errett said of joining Olivia.

Prior to taking the job at Olivia, Errett was the founder and CEO of the Spectrem Group that grew to be a worldwide strategic consulting, information, and merger acquisition advisory firm. She sold Spectrem to Interpublic Group in the late 1990s and joined E*Trade as part of its senior management team. She has a master's of business administration in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Connecticut. An avid basketball fan, Errett has a UConn Huskies pennant in her office. She lives in San Francisco with her partner Clare Albanese and their 2-year-old daughter Madison.

In Errett, Dlugacz found another out lesbian who had had a successful business career and who wanted to use her energy to help empower women, particularly those who travel.

"The women on our trips have



Amy Errett, CEO of Olivia, in her South of Market office

the time of their lives," Errett said.

seince Errett's arrival, Olivia has seen its revenues grow to about \$14 million in 2004 and it shows no signs of slowing down. This year the company has 14 trips planned and projects revenues of between \$20 and \$21 million. It just moved from Oakland to a South of Market office in San Francisco that used to house a dot-com venture. Errett is enthusiastic when it comes to promoting Olivia, and brings to the firm a strong business background and commitment to making vacations fun and safe for lesbian travelers, combined with a social mission that's part of Olivia's history.

Olivia doesn't reserve just part of a ship – it charters the whole boat. The same is true with its other vacation packages that include resorts or hiking activities.

"We take the entire venue and create exclusivity for people and create a safe environment. That's part of the magic we do," said Errett.

"The social mission around equality issues – I saw very clearly what Olivia stood for," Errett said. "Regardless of how 'out' you are or not. We have the range, from those who are out to those who couldn't conceivably be out at work."

Unlike some women's events, most notably the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Olivia does not have a definition of "woman" and all are welcome, including transgenders.

cluding transgenders.

"Yes we welcome all women, so transgender – absolutely," Errett

Dlugacz said a large measure of Olivia's success stems from the fact that women were already familiar with the Olivia brand from the music the company used to produce. "That's why we ventured into another arena," she said. "Certainly word spread about the type of travel – we were creating a new type of travel for lesbians."

Although Dlugacz is not pro-

Although Dlugacz is not producing music right now, after producing "hundreds and hundreds" of concerts over the years, she's now focusing on Olivia's vacation trips. And while she's not involved with the day-to-day operation of the company, she is still "extremely" active in the company, she said, and frequently goes on trips. She's also in the process of writing a book about the last 30 years of women's awareness through the lens of Olivia.

But music is a big part of the cruises, with stars like india.arie,

the Indigo Girls, and Mary Chapin Carpenter having performed on selected trips. Additionally, Olivia just signed an endorsement deal with tennis star Martina Navratilova. That move got the company a recent cover story in the Advocate, and while financial details weren't disclosed, Errett told the magazine that the company's "social mission" made the deal possible. Last year Olivia signed pro golfer and out lesbian Rosie Jones. Novelist Dorothy Allison recently headlined an "author's expo" cruise.

"Our folks want to see lesbian entertainers," Errett noted.
Olivia cruises aren't cheap, a

Olivia cruises aren't cheap, a fact Errett readily acknowledges. Rates for a standard inside stateroom (the cheapest) on a sevenday trip to the western Caribbean start at \$899 (early bird rate), with a regular rate of \$1,499. A penthouse suite on the same cruise (planned for January 2006) goes for more than \$6,000. But Errett said the high level of service, plus the comfort of being in a safe, friendly environment, is worth it.

the comfort of being in a safe, friendly environment, is worth it. The average cost of a typical cruise is around \$2,100. "That is a premium," she said, "and we never shy away from the fact that's premium. You could go to Alaska [on a non-Olivia cruise] for \$899, but we're tailoring the experience for you. Ninety-eight percent [of the passengers] say they would come back and 50 percent are re-

Errett said that Dlugacz "really had to figure out how to get cruise lines to work with a lesbian company," in the beginning, but that work paid off and today, Olivia is one of the most sought-after by cruise lines.

"We've never had an unsuccessful trip and we pay our bills," Errett said, adding that crew members also look forward to an Olivia cruise.

members also look forward to an Olivia cruise.

In fact, the only problem related to homophobia occurred when a ship docked one time in Nassau, the Bahamas, and there were some protesters on the dock. Olivia staff had some conversations with the folks at the pier, Errett said, and the demonstrators walked away. Far more often are welcoming signs at ports of call, including rainbow flags that greet the women.

"There were 'Welcome lovely ladies of Olivia' signs in Alaska. Ninety-nine percent of the time it's inviting," Errett said of ports of call. "The women spend lots of money in the ports."

Pointedly, Olivia does not trav-

Pointedly, Olivia does not travel to Jamaica, where gays face extreme danger on the island and many are too afraid to speak out publicly for fear of physical harm

or even death.

"We're very conscientious in planning our itineraries. That's part of our job, to create itineraries that are safe," Errett said.

Sense of purpose

Errett's work with Glide has been especially rewarding. She's served on the church foundation's board for 10 years, the last five as chair of the 17-member body. She credits her work and membership in the church with helping fulfill her life.

"If I don't go to Glide on Sunday I find my life doesn't go as well," she said. "I'm at a place in my career where I feel very blessed. I'm using lots of parts of

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Nancy Pelosi Democratic Leader

Gay vet works to repeal DADT

by Matthew S. Bajko

tationed eight years ago with a branched armor milwith a branched armor military regiment at Fort Wag-oner in Alaska, Steve Boeckels began his personal journey to come out of the closet. He had a six-month peacekeeping deploy-ment along the Egyptian-Israeli border under his belt and expect-ed to fully serve his five-year com-mitment to the military.

"My intention was to spend, at the very least, seven to nine years. I was looking seriously at doing a career enlistment," said Boeckels, 31, who graduated from West Point in 1997. "My time in Alaska, I began to accept my sexual orientation. I saw the indirect hostility at gays in the military."

In Alaska he said he experienced a hostile work environment where his battalion commander made it abundantly clear gays were not welcome among his troops. He called homosexuality evil, said Boeckels, who came out to his platoon sergeant with no

"The best thing for me to do was to get out. It was becoming counterproductive," he said. "It was tough. I never really liked to quit; I always follow things through. But it was hurting my self-esteem."

Boeckels grew up in Englewood, New York, outside Manhattan. From an early age he knew he wanted to be in the military.

wanted to be in the military.
"During the first Gulf War, I saw how important the military was to the safety of America," he said. While at West Point, he "felt like a part of the team" but after graduation, "I went from being part of a team to being an outsider."
Two years into his Alaska.

Two years into his Alaskan as-Fort Knox, Kentucky. Once there, he contacted the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and prepared a statement to reveal he was pared a statement to reveal he was gay. Within four months he was discharged under the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, signed into law by then-President Clinton in 1993. He had only served three of his five years.

"It had become a very unhappy,"

served three of his five years.

"It had become a very unhappy place to work. To go through all that only to realize this was a great environment except for gays because of a perceived notion of what homosexuality is – I was just angry," he said.

Through the help of his classmates at West Point, three of whom subsequently came out on

whom subsequently came out on their own, Boeckels worked through his anger. "I didn't want to become a jaded veteran. All of my military

riends and classmates from West Point stayed by me. My classmates got me on track," he said. "Over time, I realized it wasn't the people in the military who were the problem, it was the policy. That is what's to blame

Boeckels, a San Francisco resident since December 2001, is increasingly vocal on the need to re peal DADT. When the Govern ment Accountability Office in February estimated the policy has cost American taxpayers more than \$191 million during the past than \$191 million during the past decade, Boeckels agreed to be interviewed on CNN and local newscasts about the report. He began speaking publicly a year ago in order to educate people on DADT's real implications for gay servicemembers. In April, he took west is a roard discretion at the part in a panel discussion at the University of California, Berkeley



Gay veteran Steve Boeckels is working to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

on the policy.
"When I first moved out to San "When I first moved out to San Francisco and began talking to people about my experience, a lot thought the problem was solved with DADT. Many people think with DADT gays can serve open-ly," said Boeckels, an HIV sales representative for Boehringer Inrepresentative for boeninger in-gelheim. "Most gay rights have been gained by being vocal, being out, and being in the public eye. It is another way of showing how gay and lesbian Americans are serving their country."

Discharges down

Since DADT went into effect, more than 10,000 troops have been discharged. The numbers peaked at 1,227 in 2001, and declined to 653 last year, due to the military's reluctance, some argue, to discharge personnel at a time it is unable to meet recruiting goals to staff the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Gay discharges have declined by 47 percent since September 11, 2001, according to



SLDN's Dixon Osburn

"Momentum is building to reverse DADT. More people are dismayed and say this is hurting our military and our country," said Dixon Osburn, SLDN executive director, in an interview earlier this spring while visiting San Francisco. "This policy is really impeding our ability to staff the military. Even Republicans are saying this is nuts; we can't be losing these people."

ing these people."
On July 6, a federal court judge in Boston will hear oral arguments in a lawsuit brought by 12 former service members challeng-ing the 12-year-old policy. The veterans filed their suit after the 2003 Supreme Court ruling that state laws criminalizing homosexgovernment has argued that the landmark decision has no bearing on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Rush administration is expected to ask the Boston court to dismiss the lawsuit.

the lawsuit.

However, public support for the ban is falling as political leaders push to overturn DADT. According to a recent Boston Globe survey, nearly 80 percent of Americans believe gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military. Other polls taken in recent months have shown between 65. months have shown between 65 percent and 79 percent support for ending the ban on openly gay

personnel.

Lesbian filmmaker Louise Hogarth is working on a film about DADT, expected to be released in December. She hopes to further swing public opinion and convince viewers to pressure their lawmakers to end the ban.
"Every day, the Pentagon fires

an average of two people because they happen to be gay. Many Americans do not realize the ex-traordinary impact the military's traordinary impact the military's ban on gay personnel has on our national security and the very real impact it has on the frontlines. Straight Americans should be just as outraged as their gay neighbors that our military is undermined by simple prejudice. This film is reach those Americans. by simple prejudice. This film is meant to reach those Americans who may not fully grasp the detrimental effect of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Hogarth in a June 1 statement announcing the project. A growing number of Republicans are also calling for an end to

the antigay policy. The Associated Press noted in a story this month that four congressional Republi-cans – including stalwart conser-vatives Wayne Gilchrest of Mary-land and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Elberida, brassiciared St. Dannes Florida – have joined 81 Democrats co-sponsoring a bill to repeal







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Assemblyman Mark Leno

TV rep impacts coverage of gay issues

kilah Monifa returned to her Oakland home the night San Francisco began marrying same-sex couples on February 12, 2004 to discuss with her partner, Ruthie Bolden, if the two women should join the throngs of gay and lesbian partners saying "I do."

The couple, longtime domestic.

partners who will celebrate their 10th anniversary this July, mulled it over but made no definitive plans that evening to wed. Friday morning, Monifa returned to work at local CBS affiliate KPIX Channel 5 where she is director of Channel 5 where she is director of communications. Around 10 a.m. Bolden called Monifa and popped the question, saying, "At lunch let's get married."
"I said, 'I have other plans,'' re-called Monifa. "She said 'Listen you stupid ass, this isn't going to let long. I support the so get her.

last long. I suggest we go get married.' I said, 'What a lovely proposal, how can I resist?'

at, now can I resist?
With that the couple became one of the few LGBT African American couples to marry during the "Winter of Love" that year. Filmed by a news crew from Monifa's station, the women's marriage and post-ceremony kiss also provoked debate about what images the station should show while covering the gay marriage

story.

Kicking off the 5 o'clock news-cast that evening, the station's teaser said "300 same-sex mar-riages happen at City Hall" while



CBS5/KPIX communications director Akilah Monifa, left, and Pam Strother, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, lead a training session for station employees.

the footage showed Monifa and Bolden kissing. Through the wall of her windowless office opposite the newsroom Monifa could hear the staff erupt with cheer at the sight of their colleague's wedding. "I hear this big roar coming

out of the newsroom and ap-plause. It's Ruthie and I kissing. I go into the newsroom and Dana King, our 6 o'clock anchor, she looks me up and down and says 'This is what you wore,'" said Monifa. "Manny Ramos, who did the story, he hugged us and said he was so happy for us. Every time the station did a story on same-sex marriages for the next three weeks they would use the snippet

of us kissing."
But the station did not identify Monifa as an employee of KPIX, so irate viewers calling to complain about the footage had no idea the woman locking lips with her loved one was the one handling their complaints.

"I love getting those calls and

e-mails from viewers - 'I just saw the most disgusting thing, two women kissing. They were talking about me," said Monifa. "One woman was saying how horrible it was because her children were watching it, I did have to take a step back when I got the phone calls and e-mails."

In talking to viewers, Monifa did not identify herself as one of the women in the footage. Instead, she stressed the significance of the events unfolding and the need for

the newscasts' coverage.

"This is an important news story," she said. "I didn't get into the subtlety of the different images to use

A board member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists
Association since 2004, Monifa promotes fair and balanced coverage of gay and lesbian issues in newsrooms across the country. While it would appear her work-ing at KPIX impacted how the sta-tion covered the same-sex marriage story, Monifa disagrees, say-ing it made no difference in how the news editors and reporters approached the issue.

"The newsroom covered it like they would cover anything else," they would cover anything else," she said. "I am not sure the news editor even knew who I was. The photographer knew me, the reporter knew me, but did the news editor know that was me? I don't necessarily think so."

There is a simple reason for why the station relied on footage of her and partner in so much of its coverage, said Monifa. It had to

its coverage, said Monifa. It had to do with balance, and not wanting to only use shots of white male or female couples, even though they made up the majority of the more

"People were also struggling to find images of people of color who got married," she said.

The road that led her to public relations work, and in turn to edrelations work, and in turn to educating America's newsrooms about LGBT issues, began in Manhattan, Kansas where Monifa was born. At age 5 she moved to Huntsville, Alabama, and at 17 left to attend SUNY Binghamton, where she graduated with a degree in history.

The law school at Santa Clara University brought her west, and she practiced public interest law upon graduation for 10 years and taught as a law professor for five vears. But as she turned 40 she felt different profession calling and left the law to become a writer

Writing opinion pieces became her forte, and she began by penning book reviews for the gay press. Her editorials have appeared in the San Francisco Bay Guardian and 25 newspapers owned by Knight Ridder. In 2000, who carried the process of form for the carried that the same of the s she served as press officer for Medea Benjamin's campaign against Senator Dianne Feinstein. In 2001 she worked for the Spin Project helping nonprofits learn public relation skills. Then in December 2002 she landed the job with KPIX. "I knew instantly this was a fit,"

she said.

A member of the National Black Journalists Association, Monifa has helped create a dia-logue between that organization

and the gay journalists group.

"She is building bridges between black journalists and gay journalists. She has always been dedicated to seeing the two orga-nizations have an open dialogue and a close relationship," said Pam Strother, NLGJA executive director. "In her particular role of PR, she is much more vocal and more open to bringing forth issues in a comfortable way, which is very

great."

To help her own station address such issues as whether to show gay couples kissing on its newscasts, Monifa set up a media training this spring with the station's top news editors and NLGJA members to discuss coverage of gay stories. The newsroom has en-gaged in debates on how to propgaget in decision from the property cover the Gwen Araujo mur-der trial and which pronouns to use when discussing the life and death of the East Bay transgender

Other concerns brought up by editors have been finding more gay people of color to use as sources in stories and other loca-tions outside of the Castro for news crews to go to interview peole when working on pieces about

"It takes a lot of steps to develop sources. But if you want a dentist, you don't have to interview a white, straight dentist," said Moni-fa. "When you have a deadline, you often go with what you have

easily."
Finding out gay sources with communities of color can be challenging. Monifa, 48, has been out of the closet for years, but people still mistake her for a straight woman at times. Most often it happens when she is alone with the couple's two children, 4-year-old Isabella Bolden-Monifa and Benjamin Bolden-Monifa, soon to

"I have had people ask about what my husband and I did on the weekend," she said.

In her job of promoting both KPIX and the Bay Area's UPN sta-tion, Monifa has broadened both stations' exposure. She has moved beyond just focusing on traditional media outlets to using ethnic media, gay publications, and other non-mainstream publications to gain coverage for the stations' pro-grams and talent.

"What I brought – because of both my identity as an African American woman and as a lesbian American woman and as a resonan is I know a lot of other publications and I could seek them out. I didn't pigeonhole," she said. "If you look at executives in media, most are white and male. I fit nei-ther of those molds. I was not only hired for my talent in terms of PR. making sure opposite gender, sexual orientation and race, not just my race, are covered." ▼

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Host Tim Gaskin of Comcast's Out Spoken, right, with guest John Lake during a May taping of the television show

TV host shines light on LGBT community

by Matthew S. Bajko

im Gaskin, creator and host of a locally produced cable show on the city's LGBT show on the city's LGBT community, first got a taste for San Francisco's gay scene making pizza at age 18 at Marcello's in the heart of the Castro. The handsome, charismatic high school drop out has since become a man about town talayiis on and print. about town, television and print

journalist, and local celebrity in

his own right.

It's a long way from the one-room North Beach flat the native

San Franciscan moved into at age 13 as an emancipated minor.

"I had a sink and a bed and shared a bathroom with the other tenants on my floor," recalled Gaskin, 38, who prior to moving out on his own lived at 14th and

out on his own lived at 14th and Castro streets.

On the day of his 12th birthday, November 27, 1978 Harvey Milk, the city's first gay supervisor, was assassinated along with then Mayor George Moscone inside their City Hall offices. A year later Gaskin – one of 12 children sired by his father, a Mexican long-shoreman – fled from the chaos revolving around his family. His father, he said, was a drug addict who abused his mother and four of his older brothers "were all of his older brothers "were all criminals."

"I was a gay kid trying to be as macho as my brothers. I came out at 13 and had a lot of internalized homophobia," said Gaskin. "At 17, I lived with a woman, who was 39, for a year. She was my lover and my mentor."

During the 1980s he witnessed first hand the devastation AIDS heaped on the city's gay population, losing two former boyfriends to AIDS

to AIDS.
"They both died after we broke
up but they spent their last month
of life in my house," said Gaskin,
who earned a GED and attended
junior college for a few years.
To make ends meet over the

years, Gaskin worked as an aero-bics instructor and a waiter. A regular diner of his then offered him a job importing meats from Aus-tralia and New Zealand, which he still does to this day.

"I get up at 6 a.m. to get the overnight orders," he said. In 2001 just weeks before Sep-

tember 11, he opened a shop on Sacramento Street geared toward tourists, only to see business deci-mated following the terrorist attacks. The following year, his fa-ther died at age 57, and while car-rying the casket, Gaskin's back

"I needed a \$40,000 surgery," he recalled. "It gave me time to think about what am I doing as a store owner trying to survive."

In short order he became "a

one-man public relations adver-tising machine" organizing his fellow merchants around a plan to drive more business to their eight-block commercial strip. He par-layed that experience into a job writing for 7x7 magazine and cre-ating a 10-minute spot, edited by his friend Norm Korpi of MTV's Read World New York edition, for Comcast San Francisco's Inside

Comcast San Francisco's *Inside City Limits* cable television show. Impressed with the piece, the show's producers signed Gaskin on as co-host of the show in 2003. "I never saw myself as a TV person. The first couple of shows were scary shit. They send you out to do your first interview and it is just you and the camera guy. It was sink or swim," said Gaskin, who also writes for *Gloss* magazine.

zine.

He dove right in and a year later had successfully pitched a new show to his Comcast bosses that would cover just the LGBT community. Dubbed Out Spoken, the show debuted last fall.

"The Comcast SF people have

the show debuted last fall.

"The Comcast SF people have been very positive. They've done a couple gay shows before but nothing like this," said Gaskin, who mixes taped segments with live studio interviews taped at Comcast's Potrero Hill studios. "I felt like a platform for local gay page." like a platform for local gay news and entertainment was missing on

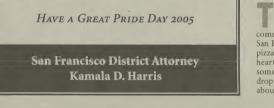
Barrett Giorgis, Comcast SF's Barrett Giorgis, Comcast SF's original programming manager, helped Gaskin bring his show to the airwaves. Giorgis, who has worked at Comcast SF even before Milk was elected as San Francisco supervisor in 1977, helped produce a public access television show in the 1970s called Coming Out. It reportedly was one of the first such shows in the country to focus exclusively on gay and lesbian issues and ran about a dozen times.

"The gay community is a vital part of San Francisco. Out Spo-ken's strength is its ability to be

ken's strength is its ability to be both entertaining and informative, presenting people, places, and issues relevant to the local LGBT community in a way that's engaging," said Giorgis.

This year, the show has landed its first advertisers, with Sterling Bank and PlanetOut paying to air commercials during the 30-minute monthly programs. Once more advertisers sign on, Gaskin plans to digitize the show for plans to digitize the show for Comcast's On Demand listings, enabling anyone in the Bay Area to watch the program.

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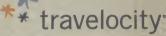
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Agency makes workplaces Out & Equal

by Kevin Davis

ut & Equal Workplace Advocates, a San Francisco-based national nonprofit, is driving change through the expanding frontier of LGBT work place equality by sponsoring an-nual workplace summits, town hall meetings, "Pride Power" breakfasts, and leading diversity trainings – all designed to foster tolerance and understanding on

To me, it feels like the work-

Out in the workplace

Workplace equality is one area in which gays and lesbians have made significant strides over the last several years. Organizations such as Out & Equal Workplace Advocates work with companies large and small to promote diversity issues, help with problems that may arise, and advocate for equality in the business community. Today, more and more firms have affinity groups for LGBT employees and many workers are proud to be out on the job. We profiled several of these employees and their stories follow in a special "Workplace Pride" section. place, especially nationally, certainly in society, is where public opinion is changing the fastest," said Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry. "People showing up every single day spend more time with colleagues – rubbing shoulders, sitting in cubicles."

Out & Equal shares best practices at its workplace summits – the internal actions taken by companies to change workplace policy – thus publicizing the company's equality efforts.

"It's a way to learn from people who have been there," said Dave

who have been there," said Dave Bueche, 50, Out & Equal associate director of development and com-

munications.

Establishing an employee resource group is one fundamental step toward equality. Sometimes resource groups exist to provide solidarity, sociability, affiliation, safety, bonding, and camaraderie without inhibition. Members diswithout inhibition. Members discuss actions to move their workplace LGBT equality goals forward and communicate with other corporate employee resource groups how, for example, to move gender identity policy through a company's legal department.

"Being able to show your strength in numbers," said Bueche. "But, also a way to kind of brainstorm about how you as a group help the company to reach

group help the company to reach its objective in a non-threatening way. We've come up with some great ideas. For example, they do this at XYZ company, we want to bring it your attention."



Selisse Berry of Out & Equal

instance, are a matter of paycheck equity, Berry and Bueche said. At a company without domestic partner benefits, a heterosexual employee recently paid a total health insurance co-pay of \$5 for his wife's pregnancy while the co-pay for a lesbian employee's pregnant

for a lesbian employee's pregnant partner was \$25,000. "That's clearly not equal pay for equal work," said Berry, 49, who formerly directed the Reli-gious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and co-edited a book on LGBT Presbyterians.

"At this point company after company is realizing it costs them hardly anything," she said, adding that even straight people use the availability domestic partner benefits, for example, as the litmus test of a progressive company.

test of a progressive company.

Including sexual orientation and gender identity and expres-

sion in equal opportunity policy is another benchmark for compa-nies. About 2,882 U.S. companies include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies, 49 out of the Fortune 50, and 414 of the Fortune 500. Gender identity issues are also

being addressed. Human re-sources personnel most often ask about how to respectfully accom-modate a worker's transitioning

"The biggest question is always what bathroom to use," said Berry. More than 100 companies, be-ginning with Lucent Technologies, include gender identity and expression in their equal opportunity policies covering transgenders crossdressers, and intersex people. Those who used to change ca-

reers when transitioning are now staying put or taking a week off. "Or take off Friday as John and come back Monday as Joanne,

Human resources departments

are "the biggest proponents for marriage equality," she said. In companies with nationwide of-fices, and with each state having divergent laws, many HR profession-als advocate hassle-free, uniform marriage equality everywhere. Currently, Massachusetts is the only state that allows same-sex marriage. Some states, including California, have domestic partner registries. Vermont offers civil unions, and Connecticut will begin offering civil unions later this year.

Diversity training

In 2004, 76 percent of 379 companies evaluated by the Human Rights Campaign offered sexual orientation diversity training, up from 53 percent in 2002. In 35 states it is legal to fire employees based on sexual orienta-

One result of the HRC corporate equality index is that high-ranking companies asked it to

page 66 >

Workplace Summit offers specialized leadership training

ne day before its Workplace Summit, which takes place September 22-24 in Denver, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates Out & Equal Workplace Advocates will offer four separate leadership institutes specifically for women, transgenders, people of color, and employee resource groups that Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry calls "basically a kind of 'Leadership 101' seen through an LGBT lens."

Participants will explore innate, effective networking and management attributes common to gay people, honing those skills, letting go of self-limiting defini-tions, and taking on greater lead-

tions, and taking on greater lead-ership roles.
Paula S. Jones, an independent consultant who spoke at the pre-summit institute last year, said LGBT workers commonly have advantageous collaboration skills.

Leveraging one's identity and strengths by using the tools they learn to cope with adversity makes them practiced at "interpersonal awareness," said Jones. They work well with others, setting up systems, legal protections, and building supportive communities, gain-ing strength and courage by resisting demeaning and diminishing

"I have greater value," was how Jones put it. "I know what's in me

that's good."
"I think a lot of people come with a lot of internalized homophobia and baggage, being an LGBT person," said Berry. "Society tells us it's a negative. It needs to get turned around and be seen as a

One challenge for gay people is passionately delivering a message and strategizing, while remaining level headed and soliciting objec-

level headed and soliciting objective feedback.
"It takes guts, certainly courage, for leaders not to be foolish, [but instead] self-managing, not charging into an office," said Jones.
Participants are encouraged to leave the leadership institute with

action plans, goals, and strategies to lead their company's employee resource group and diversity roundtables.

Jones encourages people to find mentors a step ahead on similarly aligned career tracks.

Encouraging employee re-source group members to take ini-tiative within their organization, and to step up and lead workplace and to step up and lead workplace change is continually practical because such groups are susceptible to fading away as members move on to other opportunities.

Sometimes an employee resource group "has all this energy then the leader gets transferred, and suddenly the ERG dies out for a while," said Berry.

What about the lavender ceiling?

ing?
"Definitely, if you look at the faces of CEOs in the Fortune 500
– not one of them are out," said Berry. "You can count the number of out executives on one or two

"And often, again, it's the whole leadership thing – authenticity, willingness to stand up and be corporate leaders," added Berry. "One of the core values of leadership is authenticity."

Closeted board members and top executives who 10 to 20 years ago could blame societal homophobia, today have no excuse for not coming out, Berry said.

"Stop trying to hide who you are. Be open and upfront about your beliefs," even if they're not popular, she said.

Modeling oneself as someone

Modeling oneself as someone who overcame obstacles to gain respect, and leading honest, open

respect, and reading nonest, open lives builds trust.

"Inspiring others to see me as fully – here's exactly who I am," said Jones, who called her internal leadership conferences for IBM employee resource groups and other private clients "a labor of love."

For more on this year's Workplace Summit, visit www.outandequal.org.



"Each year we celebrate pride to commemorate who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. I want to congratulate San Francisco on another fabulous Pride Celebration and for standing up, standing out, and standing proud.'

-José Cisneros, San Francisco Treasurer

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CSAA revs up its workplace equality

by Kevin Davis

alifornia State Automobile
Association is setting the standard for equality in the workplace. Three employees who play a part in making that happen, grateful for their employer's openness and inclusiveness are exare to ness and inclusiveness, are eager to

ness and inclusiveness, are eager to engage in promoting diversity. "We want people to come to work with their entire selves," said Patrick Vitale, manager of corpo-rate diversity and inclusion. "I don't want to leave my values and energy at the door. At AAA our value proposition to our members is we're the most caring and respected membership company inside and outside."

Jennifer McMutrie, a 28-year AAA employee and for four years a senior vice president of travel services, developed an alliance be-tween Olivia Cruises and AAA So-journs, though CSAA received slight criticism from some individuals upset with Olivia's presence on CSAA's Web site.

ence on CSAA's Web site.

"We've had some reaction to certain marketing pieces that we've done," said McMutrie. "In the big picture, it's very minimal."

Coming out as a lesbian after moving here from AAA's Florida branch, McMutrie, 56, did not cause an uproar among peers on the executive team.

"A big 'so what, let's get back to the meeting,' they said. I am learn-ing that it's okay to be open. When I moved I wasn't going to live a closeted life. I started talking about it to people. I've sometimes



Members of Pride, the LGBT affinity group for employees at the California State Automobile Association, on the roof of the company's Van Ness Avenue office. Jose Salazar, center, is chair of the group.

gone back to my 23-year-old habit of holding back. I'm a newbie out of the closet. I'm adjusting." McMutrie contacted Kate Kendell at the National Center for

Lesbian Rights, then suggested to the marketing department that CSAA support the legal group.

CSAA has supported nonprofits like Frameline, New Leaf: Services for Our Community, and others representing a cross section of its

membership.
CSAA sponsored NCLR's annual fundraising gala, attended by the CEO, president and most of

"Being out means bringing my entire self to work, fully present. I don't have to hide anything," said McMutrie. "That makes me a more effective person to work with. I'm grateful to work for an organization with this kind of openness.

Jose Salazar, information tech-nology manager with CSAA since nology manager with CSAA since 2002, has been the most proactive in ratcheting up workplace change, accomplishing one of his "distinct visions" and raising CSAA's equality index rating with the Human Rights Campaign from 71 to 86 by altering the company's nondiscrimination clause to include gender identity and ex-

He went straight to the CEO, He went straight to the CEV, who let him speak to the general legal council, and met with San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, HRC, and the city's Human Rights Commission. He researched what other companies did and informed the human researched what other companies did, and informed the human resources office that CSAA needed to be a "best in class" company.

"It's all a matter of education,"

said Salazar, 40. "They didn't even know [gender identity] wasn't covered by existing policy."
When the upcoming HRC

equality index results are published, CSAA should rate 100, ac-

counting for the recently stepped up diversity training.

"I'm very proud of that," said Salazar. "I feel respected. To my pleasant surprise it convinced me of how committed [to equality] the company is. I really believe

their beliefs are aligned to mine." And Salazar has more strategic goals in mind such as leadership development at every level, and more openly gay executive men-

tors.
"Once we've crossed that hurdle it's not a threat to introduce the next level of maturity," he said. "I hope to continue to be on the forefront, [with CSAA] paying for transgender surgery."
"I truly believe you can't be

productive and happy at work un-less you're outgoing, visible peo-ple, encouraged to feel safe and be themselves," he added. Salazar said that racial discrim-

ination in the gay community and

feeling marginalized growing up Mexican American in Texas "mo-tivates me to try to break down barriers that create stereotypes to exclude people from a lot of

things."
"I rarely run into aggression or "I rarely run into aggression or ambivalence about who I am," he said. "Even if I identify people I think are antigay, they know that behavior won't be tolerated. They know the company encourages me to do a better job. It's a winwin situation."

He is also happy to answer the

Win situation.

He is also happy to answer the occasional *Queer Eye* question from fellow techies. "Because of my openness people often come up and ask 'Does this shirt match

my pants?""
Salazar thinks it's important for LGBT employees to remain vigilant when it comes to work-

place equality.

"We must be active to maintain these advances," said Salazar, who believes that the current Republican administration motivat-

publican administration motivated end employees to get involved.

Vitale, 59, recently designed and facilitated for executives a basic diversity awareness class, to be rolled out next to managers, touching on people's assumptions based on messages received growing up – fears, issue avoidance, and inclusion.

"Quite frankly, for people born in the 1950s, it was not on their radar screen," said Vitale. "Now they're in a Bay Area environ-

when coaching "jock-type" straight male managers, Vitale's experience matters more than his sexual orientation.

"What's the value I add to the individual?" asked Vitale, a former lieutenant colonel and 21-year Army clinical therapist where he learned cautious strength and selfconfidence. "What are their goals? There's no issue of me being gay. They know that and value it. It's more about how I show up as a

more about how I show up as a person. You have to be comfortable with who you are."

CSAA's LGBT employee affinity group, Pride, whose monthly meetings are regularly attended by 10 to 15 people, has been in existence at the Van Ness Avenue office since 1996. Its purpose falls into five categories: social, political, community, corporate, and cal, community, corporate, and educational. Salazar took leader-ship of the affinity group last year. Additionally, a cross-section of CSAA affinity groups collaborate

with Pride during June and at other events and two leaders from each group form a leadership al-

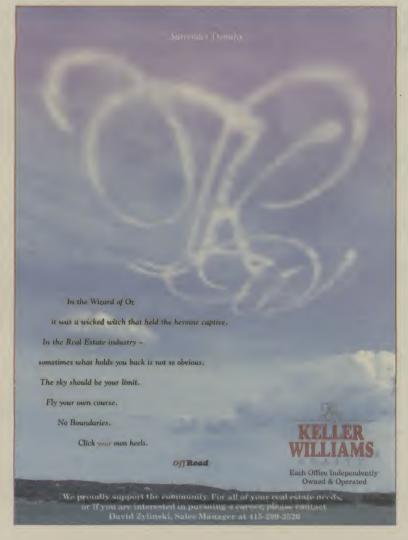
"Like dolphins," said Vitale, anyone can join any employee re-

source group.

In fact Pride has invited African American and Asian American affinity group representatives to attend this September's

Out & Equal Workplace Summit.
Pride recently started taking
field trips to AAA branches outside the Bay Area, to include them in Pride initiatives, and help them set up their own LGBT presence. Pride members visited the major Pride members visited the major Ellk Grove AAA call center and Livermore office, followed by Las Vegas on their LGBT "Johnny Ap-pleseed" toru. While attending the Out & Equal Workplace Summit in Denver, they'll make a side trip to the Colorado Springs AAA cento the Colorado Springs AAA cen-

For more information, visit www.csaa.com. Readers can also contact Salazar at Jose Salazar@csaa.com.



Big Blue flaunts its rainbow

by Tyson Gillfillan

eeting with Jim Freeman, director of business trans-formation for IBM Global formation for IBM Global Services, is a little like attending a high school pep rally, but without all the shouting and gymnastics. Freeman, 47, joined IBM as an engineer almost 25 years ago, and if his longevity with the company doesn't reveal a deep commitment to his employer, his enthusiasm most definitely does.

"I'm very proud being gay in

most definitely does.
"I'm very proud being gay in
this company," he said.
According to Freeman, IBM
has always been at the forefront of
equality in the workplace. "In
1953 IBM adopted an equal opportunity employment policy that." portunity employment policy that refused to discriminate on the refused to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or sex," said Freeman. "This was corporate policy even before [Supreme Court desegregation case] Brown v. Board of Education. IBM was going into Southern communities and saying 'we'll build a plant here, but we won't discriminate – and if you want us here, you're going to have to like it." going to have to like it."

going to have to like it."

It took another 30 years before the company added sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy, but in 1984, it became the first major U.S. corporation to do so. By 1993, Big Blue's Canadian employees received full domestic partnership benefits, which were extended to the U.S. in 1997.

Freeman said the momentum for gay employees at IBM really began when Louis Gerstner became chairman and CEO. Gerstner commissioned eight executive

ner commissioned eight executive task forces to advise him on diversity issues – including one devoted to the LGBT community. Freeman now serves on that task force and helps identify community advocacy and investment opportunities, as well as ways to promote diversity within a company that crosses the globe.
"I once heard [openly gay, for-

mer Ford executive] Allan Gilmour speak about why businesses should adopt inclusion policies and reach out to the gay community ... in a competitive marketplace, no company should



Longtime IBM employee Jim Freeman

close itself off to an entire population of talent or customers," said Freeman. "With that in mind, I think that in this day and age, it's businesses who are setting the standard for equality – not the government.

If Freeman and Gilmour are If Freeman and Gilmour are correct, and businesses truly do have the power to affect societal change, few companies have IBM's reach to spread LGBT equality across the globe. In fact, in 2002 the firm was the first to extend equal employment opportunities to transcender search. tunities to transgender people worldwide.

worldwide.
"IBM is a place where gays, lesbians, and transgender persons can go to work, and have an employer that ultimately respects them for who they are. And in regions where gays are punished, or even killed, IBM can provide some support, and be a voice for equality when individual voices are squelched," said Freeman.
Glancing at the company's track record, Freeman's proclamations are not just empty rhetoric.

track record, Freeman's proclamations are not just empty rhetoric. IBM boasts an amazing number of awards from groups like the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Out and Equal, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network the Gay Financial Network the Gay Financia Network, the Gay Financial Net-work, the Gay and Lesbian Al-liance Against Defamation, and GenderPAC. The company is on record in support of the Employ-ment Non-Discrimination Act,

and is a frequent contributor to

and is a frequent contributor to numerous local and national LGBT organizations and events. IBM is also among an elite group of Fortune 500 companies that reach out to LGBT customers through more than just an ad in a gay magazine or Pride event spongay magazine or Fride event spon-sorship. The company actually set up a division dedicated to LGBT small businesses, with a dedicated sales team, special discounts on IBM products, and free advertis-

ing opportunities.

Mitch Goldstone and Carl Berman's Irvine, California photo shop received national attention when they were featured in an IBM ad campaign showcasing Big Blue's commitment to small LGBT owned businesses. "Actually it was our trust of the

"Actually it was our trust of the IBM brand years before the ad that changed and strengthened our business," said Goldstone. "But ... the ads and their commitment to the GLBT community do make a difference."

do make a difference."

For Freeman, that difference was made in 1989 when he was transferred from New York to IBM's office in San Jose. Eleven years before the company officialyears before the company official-ly included relocation expenses for same-sex partners in its benefits package, Freeman's supervisor set up Freeman's partner – who also worked for IBM - with interviews and transfer opportunities so that they would not be separated.

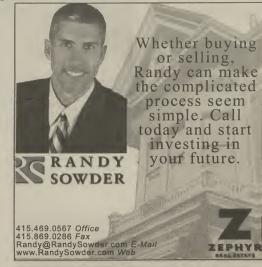
These days Freeman has cho-sen to follow the spirit of that su-pervisor's benevolence by being visible, and a leader and resource

for LGBT employees within the company. He actively worked with a transgender employee whose previous employer had been purchased by IBM to assist her through sexual reassignment transition. "Iulie told me she had tried to go through bore so the age here." to go through her sex change be-fore they were bought by IBM, and it turned out miserably - the company just didn't have the understanding or tools to deal with it," he said. "After the acquisition, she had the full weight of IBM's employee resource group, and HR

department, all making sure it would go smoothly... from name change issues to diversity training to bathroom issues."

With leaders like Freeman

With leaders like Freeman throughout the company, IBM will undoubtedly continue to set the bar for LGBT issues in corporate America. As he stated, "for me, gay Pride is about integrity, acknowledging that fundamental human rights are larger than any man-made construct − the resonating chord that vibrates through us all, and unites us." ▼















Cancer society fosters gay-friendly workplace

by Kevin Davis

Cancer Society's San Francisco unit office, LGBT department heads consider a special LGBT affinity group almost su-

"We may sit together and seek each other out at meetings," said Community Services Director Jim Shattuck, but they have made no organized effort to formalize an employee resource group.
"Even when first hired, I felt

confident that I could be myself and sort of let the chips fall. I've

and sort of let the chips fall. I venever experienced at the cancer society needing to be silent or guard my language," Shattuck, 45, added.
"There's no reason to straightenthat image," said Shattuck, who manages community partnerships, extending the society's messages to a bread widenen in various cona broad audience in various constituencies. "There are no barriers

stituencies. There are no barriers to my professional success, specific to being an out gay man."

At a diversity training in April 2004 featuring 12 tables decorated in sculptures and costumes reprein sculptures and costumes representing different cultures, attended by 120 people, Shattuck took responsibility for designing a well-received gay wedding table containing a copy of his February wedding certificate, champagne glasses, streamers, wedding bells, and photos of Shattuck and his partner, Luiz



American Cancer Society employees, from left: Tim Hart, Jim Shattuck, John Lazar, Jason Dewees, and Annemarie Henning

Madureira, on the City Hall steps. The cancer society's regional office at 17th and Webster streets teer-founded, driven, and governed organization. The cancer society is a member of the Golden Gate Business Association and chambers of commerce in numerous communities.

ous communities.

The society provides education, research, advocacy, and community services. It offers answers on many kinds of cancer, survivors' stories, federal lobbying efforts, and a "Road to Recovery"

program – driving patients to and from medical appointments. The society deliberately targets at-risk, underserved, and disenartisk, underserved, and disen-franchised minority populations through specific print material with screening guidelines and facts on, for example, high LGBT smoking rates – 50 percent higher in California than average, said Tim Hart, calling it the communi-ry's hignest crisis ty's biggest crisis

The cancer society sponsors the Fresno LGBT Film Festival, and

smoking cessation program.

"What excited me about the cancer society was that they made the LGBT community a priority," said Hart, 41, strategic director of corporate communications.

corporate communications.
In developing formalized out-reach tools, directors ask his opinion in identifying leadership vol-

"Not low-level stuff," said Hart, who is also a board member of so-cial networking group Men's As-sociated Exchange. "They asked me as a leader and professional how we can do this right – what can I bring to the table. Now I'm in a position to set the proper tone and environment and I don't have to set the tone. The expectation to be tolerant is very high."

Starting out at a not necessarily gay-friendly Detroit daily newspaper, Hart laughed off a gay-baiting cop while on the police beat, telling him, "Don't forget I buy

ink by the gallon."
Today, "there's very little not to speak up about," said Hart.
"One of the things I love is I never had to be in the closet," said John Lazar, regional vice president of the American Cancer Society for the Greater Bay Area Redwood Empire. He works out of the Oakland and San Francisco offices and oversees income development, is responsible for recruiting as many as 20,000 volunteers, and does advocacy work with elected officials in 11 counties. "Be totally honest and yourself,

said Lazar, 56, advocating what he calls an experiential approach to diversity, instead of indoctrinadiversity, instead of indoctrina-tion. "Expose people to diversity, help people observe and make their own decisions."
"It's not like we're living a dou-ble life," he said of attending social events with his partner. "The

company embraces us."
Others felt that seeing superi-

ors' same-sex partners at high-profile fundraising galas where the society exhibits its public face, a

society exhibits its public face, a model of openness.

"It speaks volumes to their commitment of my permission and safety within the organization, to be who I am," said Shattuck.

Sensing their openness, straight colleagues of both Lazar and Hart feel comfortable bringing up gay current events.

ing up gay current events.

"I'm happy to play that role," said Lazar, who formerly worked at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "I've never

Against Defaniation. The level been inhibited in giving my opin-ion and speaking as an employee." While not wishing to act as spokesman "for all my people," Hart said, "if [colleagues] have questions, I give them my person-al perspective."

Two years into Annemarie Henning's job at the cancer soci-ety, she tapped into the family emergency leave policy when her partner suffered a skull fracture in a pedestrian-auto accident, spending a week in the hospital.

Fortunately co-workers proac-tively informed her that the leave benefit applied during that traumatic time.

"They actually pointed it out to me," said Henning, 34, a seven-year communications officer and creative services marketing team

"They said, 'This is your family member. Don't worry about the

Calling the environment open and forward thinking today, as a 20-something newcomer to the society, unsure of the group's demographic breakdown, she had concerns as she made voicemail reports on the situation requiring

"In the process I ended up out-ing myself," she said. "It depends on the leadership

to foster principles of equality by setting an institutional example," said Lazar. "You need a champion. Champions can make things happen."

For more information, visit www.cancer.org.

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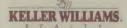
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GLOBES@Schwab spreads Pride

by Tyson Gillfillan

hen Randy Sabbagh in-terviewed at the Charles Schwab Corporation's San Francisco headquarters in November 1997, he recalled that November 1997, he recalled that the first words he heard as the el-evator doors opened were, "You in jung queen!" Two openly gay Schwab employees were having a heated discussion down the hall and according to Sabbagh, com-pared to the closeted East Coast banking firm he was leaving, the sound was music to his ears.

sound was music to his ears.
"For me, pride is about putting myself out there, living my life openly and adding to this diverse rainbow of people," said Sabbagh, 44. "I could see how accepting everyone was at Schwab ... and that the company really cared, too, it included my partner in my relocation package, and this was back in the 1990s."
While not all employees at

While not all employees at Schwab may share Sabbagh's view that a workplace shouting match can represent gay pride, most will agree that the company is on the cutting edge of promoting work-place tolerance and diversity. Schwab ranked 32nd on the Gay Financial Network's list of 50 Most Powerful and Gay-Friendly Public Companies in Corporate America in 2001. For members of the LGBT

community within the organiza-tion, the place to connect, share experiences, and communicate with corporate management on issues of concern is the employee resource group GLOBES@ resource group GLOBES@ Schwab, which stands for Gay,



Members of the LGBT employee group at Charles Schwab include, from left, Matt Machado, Andy Welch, Mark Oliver, Char Levitt, Randy Sabbagh, Renae Breitenstein, Anders Tyslan, and Ron Haynes.

Lesbian or Bisexual Employees at Schwab. GLOBES leaders say that although not in the acronym, the group also advocates for transgen-

group also advocates for transgender employees.

"We currently have about 300 members total, 150 on the 'out' list, and about 150 on the 'in' list," said GLOBES Chairman Mark Oliver, 43, "Out" and "in" refer to whether the employee is openly gay at work. The GLOBES "in" list allows gay but closeted employees to become involved, without comto become involved, without com-promising their privacy. GLOBES members are committed to assisting "in-listers" through the com

ing out process when they feel personally ready.
According to GLOBES leader-ship council member Char Levitt,
47. Schwab created the group back in 1991, following Levi Strauss' lead to become the second Bay Area firm with a resource devoted to LGBT employees. Levitt was one of the founding members of Levi's LGBT group, and has been active with GLOBES since joining Schwab six years ago.

GLOBES leaders characterized Schwab as being a historically progressive company – it has received a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index – and said being in San Francisco helped put the company ahead of the curve on LGBT issues. According to the leadership council, there was no corporate resistance to the group's original formation, and that the company has always been devoted to diversity among its employees.

Although with 13,900 employees in 280 branches across the country, some conflicts have arisen, and that's where GLOBES steps in. In addition to fulfilling their regular salaried duties, GLOBES leaders volunteer to help resolve LGBT disputes and matters within the company.

in the company.

From stopping antigay harassment at rural branch offices to helping transgender employees and the company work through transition issues, GLOBES members are called upon to provide firm-wide support. When the company acquired New York-based U.S. Trust, GLOBES was instrumental in integrating strumental in integrating strumental in integrating Schwab's commitment to diversity into the U.S. Trust culture, and extending Schwab's generous domestic partner benefits to U.S. Trust employees ... "despite the U.S. Trust HR manager's insistence that [domestic partner benefits] would happen over 'her dead body,' "said Sabbagh.

GLOBES was initially formed

GLOBES was initially formed to act as the face of the LGBT community for the company. Over the years it has served as emover the years it has served as employee advocate, communication channel, and social outlet. According to GLOBES leadership member Anders Tyslan, 35, the group regularly works with other employee resource groups within Schwab to support each other's missions and activities, gets in-volved with community organizations, and joins other companies' LGBT outreach efforts, including PG&E's Pride Network scholar-

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TV host

◆ page 48

"LGBT news only makes it in the mainstream media when it's sensational or scandalous. That's because our lives continue to be marginalized by news media exec-utives," he said. "Our show ad-dresses the underserved local LGBT population that craves LGBT news. News that is not being reported in the mainstream and brought to them by people they trust; LGBT reporters." In March, Gaskin invited QTV

Newsmagazine to produce several segments per episode. The locally produced news show had gone to showing its pieces mainly online and welcomed the offer to broad-

and welcomed the offer to broad-cast its segments.
"QTV does great stuff but no-body sees it," said Gaskin. "Admit-tedly it's good for us at *Out Spoken* tedy it's good for us at Out spoken too. People want to be informed as well as entertained, therefore part-nering with QTV will make our show even better."

Clarence Swiggins, COO of Rainbow World Media, parent company of QTV News and QTV Newsmagazine, said the merger is a plus for the LGBT community.

"It's a long time coming. It has finally come to the point where the mainstream media is paying attention to the needs of the gay community, media like Logo and Here television," he said. "With this new agreement, we'll be contributing and adding to the diversity of content for the LGBT com-

One recent Out Spoken show devoted coverage to the boycott against Badlands by former patrons and employees who have accused owner Les Natali (who denies the charges) of discriminat-ing against African Americans.

Another show was extended to an hour and devoted to covering the one-year anniversary of San Fran-cisco's "Winter of Love," when city officials married more than 4,000 same-sex couples in February and March of 2004.

The show has even caught the attention of gay celebs. CBS's Amazing Race winner Reichen Lehmkuhl stopped by for an in-terview and the stars of Bravo's Queer Eye for the Straight Girl gave the show's roving reporter Janine Shiota a makeover. Shiota a makeover.

The show is all-volunteer at the moment. Gaskin estimates he

moment. Gaskin estimates he spends about 40 hours a week to produce each episode.

"Each three and a half minute segment takes about 20 hours to do. It's a long process," he said. His goal is to launch the show weekly, perhaps working in conjunction with MTV's gay TV channel Logo, set to premiere June 30.

"What I would really love is to have a weekly gay show shot in San Francisco. With higher revenue, more ads, and better guests. We could fly people in to talk about their movie coming out," he said. "All we need is a better set."

Until then he is hard at work

said. "All we need is a better set."
Until then he is hard at work launching a second show, this one to be a weekly program on the Bay Area's booming real estate market.
Called *Open House*, the first show will air this Monday, June 27 at 8 p.m. on Comcast SF's Channel 11.
This time Gaskin will play a behind the scenes role, producing hind the scenes role, producing each episode, to be hosted by Diane de Castro, who shares hosting duties with Gaskin on *Inside City Limits*.

For information about new episodes of Out Spoken visit its Web site at www.outspokensf.com

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Citigroup has an LGBT employee network that includes members Susan Walker, Sheri Paulo, Michael DeHoyos, Diane Larsen, and network sponsor, Michael Weitzman, president of Citibank West.

Inclusivity is a top priority for Citigroup

by Cynthia Laird

hen Diane Larsen went to work for Citigroup two and a half years ago, she finally found a place where she could be herself. And shortly after taking a job as a senior human re-sources manager for the retail side of the giant financial services corporation, Larsen was one of the people who was involved in the

formation of the Citigroup Pride Network for the San Francisco and Bay Area region.

"It was not difficult at all," Larsen, 39, said of getting higher ups to sign off on the network's creation. "Our networks are formed based on employee interest. They are employee-initiated groups."

Larsen said she was ap proached by a director in the company and asked if she would company and asked if she would assist in getting information from corporate about the steps needed to form the group. She immediately responded.

"I felt more than comfortable to be in the process," she said, "and this is the first company where I've falt that war."

felt that way."

Citigroup, as it's been called since acquiring Travelers Insurance in 1998, is a longtime world ance in 1998, is a longitme world-wide provider of banking and other financial services. The com-pany that started nearly 200 years ago as Citibank issues credit cards, offers online banking, mortgages, and provides investment services and more to over 200 million customers. With 275,000 employees around the globe and over a tril-lion dollars in assets, Citigroup is an international player in the financial community.

Over the years, the company has become supportive of the LGBT community, and in the Bay Area has made financial donations to such nonprofits as the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the AIDS Health Project, AIDS Walk San Francisco, and AIDS Medicine and Miracles, and AIDS Medicine and Miracles, noted Janis Tarter, vice president of consumer group public affairs. This year, for what is believed to be the first time, Citigroup will

to be the first time, Citigroup will have a contingent in Sunday's Pride Parade. The company has previously had a booth at the Pride festival but has never marched in the parade.

Citigroup's local Pride Network has 43 members, Larsen said, and is the first such network to launch in the west. Other Citigroup Pride Networks are located

group Pride Networks are located in Dallas, San Antonio, St. Louis, South Dakota, South Florida, and there is one made up of employees in European countries. There's also a national network.

Forming the San Francisco network involved some formali-ties, Larsen explained. About six employees drafted a mission state-ment and bylaws. The network is open to all employees. And conducts activities that are consistent with Citigroup's values, objectives, and diversity initiatives.

"It's centered around the employees rather than the business," said Larsen, who is currently membership chair. "We're sup-

ported by the company."

The network is also open to employees of other companies

emproyees of other companies owned by Citigroup, such as Smith-Barney. Michael Weitzman, president of Citibank West, is the network's sponsor. Each network has to have omeone in the company serve in

someone in the company serve in that role.

"When we said we wanted to form a network, his immediate response was 'how can we help,'" said Larsen, adding that Weitzman, who oversees the company's banking operations in California and Nevada, sent the fledgling network a message of inclusiveness.

"We're an inclusive environment, not tolerant. It's about inclusivity. It was surreal," she said of Weitzman's talk. "Mike got up and spoke about inclusivity and why diversity is so important to

why diversity is so important to Citigroup and why it's the right thing to do."

The LGBT network holds var-

ious events and fosters relations with other Citigroup networks. Members also get involved in var-ious community volunteer activi-

ties.
The network participated in an Out & Equal Workplace Advocates Workplace Summit last year that Larsen found very rewarding. The conference, she said, showed her the power of diversity in the workplace. workplace.

"Going to Out & Equal last year, talking to delegates and dif-ferent chapters, it's important to recognize each other as human beings," she said.

Larsen, who moved to the Bay Area from Seattle about 10 years

Area from Seattle about 10 years ago with her partner, said it was time to take the next step and come out at work when she started at Citigroup. And her experience with Citigroup's Pride Network has been rewarding.

"Being loved and respected for who you are; that's what set me on who you are, mars what see the on fire. I wanted to get the network started," she said. "I knew it was time for me to step forward and out of my shell. And, I'm so grateful that the company emulates that every day. Here at Citigroup, you see an environment that celebrates diversity." ▼





LGBT employees at Genentech, from left, Brad Sherrill, Aimee Heavener, and Santiago Madrinan.

enentech stands out

by Kevin Davis

GBT Genentech employees express gratitude for their visible presence on the South San Francisco corporate campus, with some kind of monthly activity throughout the year, an LGBT affinity group Genentech Out & Equal, and through its Web site and internal communications.

Companies that lag in work-

place equality can look to Genen-tech's progressive example of support built around employees and its diversity recruitment goals to "retain the best and the brightest, including gays and lesbians," said Brad Sherrill, 34, a two-year Genentech employee in the busi-ness process improvement department who joined Genentech Out & Equal upon joining the company and just started his co-chair duties

"What I'm really proud of is that we first offered domestic partner benefits long before the state of California," he said. "We've been on the forefront of equal

He calls the company's work a magnet for talented LGBT biolo-

gists.

"Anyone considering a job in biotechnology can look at Genen-tech," he said. "To know right away that they are welcome is a big draw. People who feel welcome want to stay around and con-tribute."

The company currently rates an 86 on the Human Rights Cam-paign's latest 2003 Corporate Equality Index.
A cross section of up to 25 sci-

A cross section of up to 25 sci-entists, people from every depart-ment, and supportive straight al-lies attend the 11-year-old Genen-tech Out & Equal monthly

lunchtime meetings.

"We can't even fit in a conference room anymore," said Aimee Heavener, 33, a Nutropin case manager.

A five-year employee, she joined Genentech Out & Equal

joined Genentech Out & Equal two years ago and became co-chair one year ago.

The group's June events in-clude a weekly lunchtime educa-tional documentary film series called "DNA Groups;" opening a hospitality "street suite" on the Pride Parade route for Genentech employees and guests; and flying the rainbow flag the last week in June at both the South San Fran-

"It's such a wonderful symbol to see," said Sherrill. "I've been with companies in the past that do

not do anything like that." Genentech hosts an October Pride Power breakfast on employ-

ee resource group development.

"The goal is to provide ERGs a
step by step review of change with
specific goals from each 'best
practices' focused to a particular
ERG, to overcome challenges, and
most importantly, networking between ERG leaders," said Santiago
Madriana, 36. Genentech Out &

tween ERG leaders, 'said Santiago Madrinan, 36, Genentech Out & Equal's previous co-chair. The company helps sponsor a contingent to attend the annual Out & Equal Workplace Advo-cates' Workplace Summit. The resource group also pro-

The resource group also provides key project management experience, pulling together subcommittees and leaders to successfully tackle each activity on the annual events calendar, updating members on progress toward staging the event, followed by outcome devicious:

come debriefings.
They've also given support and lunch to the annual Bay Area Gay-Straight Alliance conference for

Straight Amarice Comments
the past two years.
"It's really cool," said Heavener, of working with the young people, adding it makes her "more optimistic about the future."

Serving lunch (Mexican food, chicken salad) and viewing the responsible, smart youth at work-shops from a respectful distance,

ing, and fulfilling.
"We're really low key," she said. "We sit in the kitchen, throw them

"What I love about GSA is they're so grateful we are there for them," said Madrinan.

Madrinan is now involved in a wider capacity with Out & Equal Workplace Advocates with whom he helped market June's Pride Power breakfast hosted by KPMG on "Breaking the Lavender Ceil-

ing."
The group further helps youth by contributing to the e-Quality College Scholarship Collaborative for LGBT high school grads, founded by the PG&E Pride Network and cay educators. ork and gay educators.

Genentech Out & Equal also

partners with other company affinity groups such as African Americans in biotechnology and one for older employees.

"You get to meet people you wouldn't meet in a day-to-day job on the campus," said Heavener.

Madrinan, a six-year training department manager values, "being able to be myself and not living by what other people think," and added that his partner attends company events with him. ▼



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Mark Leno relishes time in lion's den

by Matthew S. Baiko

arlier this month white tents housing conservative talk
radio hosts from across California sprouted up in front of the state Capitol. The throngs of ra-bidly pro-Republican shock jocks and AM radio personalities are a yearly ritual in Sacramento, organized by Bob Brulte, brother of Senate Minority Leader Jim Brulte (R-Rancho Cucamonga).

It is the kind of gathering no

Democrat would be caught dead in. That is, except one: state As-semblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). There among his Republican colleagues stood Leno the lone Democrat in the lion's

Jewish and one of the first two openly gay men to serve in the Legislature, Leno is often escorted Legislature, Leno is often escorted to public events such as his swearing in by his first lady, drag queen Donna Sachet, and resides in the state's most liberal of liberal cities. Hardly the type of person one would expect to be embraced by

the conservative chattering classes.
"I get the invitation because they have a short list of people who will even come near them," said Leno, seated in his 14th floor San Francisco office in the State

Assemblyman Mark Leno has been a willing guest on conservative talk radio

Building overlooking Civic Center Plaza and City Hall's gold dome. "If I didn't do this, who is going to put it out there? I take it in a cer-

tain way as a responsibility."

Leno not only relishes being a guest on such shows as Fox News Channel's *The O'Reilly Factor* and the Sacramento-based morning talk show Armstrong and Getty,

his hosts love him as their guest.
"It is something I like and it is a good challenge," said Leno. "It is good for debating skills and good for all of us to articulately, passionately, but not emotionally, make our strongest arguments in make our strongest arguments in response to our strongest opposi-

tion."
Jeff Bissiri, Log Cabin Republican's West Coast field director and
full-time lobbyist in Sacramento,
complimented Leno on being
willing to engage Republicans and
more conservative residents of the

"That is good, we need to have those conversations with every-body in the state," Bissiri said of Leno's appearances on conserva-

tive shows.

While in New York City last
September during the Republican's presidential convention, Bissiri became the first out gay person to appear on Larry Elder's
KABC radio program. Listeners of
Elder, a civil libertarian, often do not share his support of gay issues. Bissiri said he has a simple

rule to follow when dealing with antigay callers.

"My approach is you treat them with respect and have a conversation about who you are and what you are about. It resonates with a lot of listeners," he said.

Since his days as a city supervisor helping the No on Knight campaign and passing pro-transgender legislation, Leno has been a guest on conservative talk radio. His first appearance as a state legislator came when he coauthored a bill that would have extended driver's licenses to undocumented workers. Producers of the Arm-strong and Getty show came calling, and Leno happily obliged to

'What I didn't know was they what I didn't know was they couldn't get any of my Democrat-ic colleagues to go on at all. No one from the Latino Caucus would do it," recalled Leno, whose first term began in 2002 and is up for re-election next November. 'We got along quite well.'

Then came February 12, 2004 when unbeknownst to Leno, on the same day he introduced his first bill to legalize same-sex mar-riage in the state, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom ordered city officials to start marrying same-sex couples. Gay marriage became the hot topic and Leno its

became the hot topic and Leno its talk radio spokesman. Friday, Feb-ruary 13, he was in the hot seat again with Armstrong and Getty discussing the issue and the merits of his bill. "We were joking around when one of them said, 'That Gavin Newsom, he is just running for president of the United States.' I president of the United States. I said, "Is that what you think this is about? He replied, 'He is so ambitious, he reeks of it? I said, 'He is intelligent, telegenic,' when one said, 'Telegenic? He's hot!'" recalled Leno. "At the very end one said, 'You know Leno, some people said, bear het you know Leno, some people see het you

ple may hate you because you are Jewish. Some people may hate you because you are a homosexual. I hate you because you are so damn

"I thought, that is a victory. They hadn't argued anything back that I had said about my bill," added Leno.

Lately, radio shows in Riverside County have come calling, wanting Leno to discuss the state's policies on placing sex offenders in communities after they leave prison. As chair of the Assembly's Public Safety Committee, Leno has stymied legislation that would change those policies, much to the consternation of Southland residents who want to permanently deny such criminals the right to live in their county. They are cur-rently pushing a ballot measure to change the rules and have passed a local ordinance saying sex offend-

local ordinance saying sex oftenders cannot be within two and a half miles of schools. The state requires a distance of only a quarter mile.

"They are like vigilantes. They are tough on their own legislators so I have become the whipping boy in those areas," said Leno, who added that the measure is "ridicu-

lous and completely unconstitu-tional. There are editorials in some parts of the state saying my committee should be renamed the Criminal Protection Committee.

Keeping his cool

In one sense, Leno is the per-fect person for such shows where the hosts are primed to push peo-ple's buttons in order to elicit emotional outbursts over civil dis-course. It is the rare occasion when Leno loses his temper or gets bumped off message, so rare in fact that when his voice sounded a sense of outrage at the demise of his gay marriage bill earlier this month, reporters and supporters took notice

"It takes some practice and some doing to argue our case successfully when the environment is hostile and emotional," said Leno, who credits the media training he received as a member of the Human Rights Campaign's board with preparing him for his talk show stints. "It's their job to try and trap me, that is part of the

Only once has he lost it on air. He forgets the host's name, a Los Angeles shock jock his staff had said was usually good to his guests, but Leno remembers it was the one time he hung up the phone mid-interview. "He was bombastic, a complete

jerk. He was screaming at me," said Leno. "I would start to say something and he would cut me off. Finally I roared back at him, 'I can scream as loud as you can' and hung up the phone. I try not to do that but it does get your blood

Occasional homophobic remarks and virulently antigay callers aside, Leno takes the pot-shots in stride because not being there would be far worse in his

eyes.
"It is so important for us to get beyond the our message out beyond the county borders of San Francisco and Los Angeles," he said.

There is another reason Leno is so eager to be heard on radio pro-

so eager to be heard on radio programs hostile to gay rights. Transcending the opportunity to sell his own legislation or to push the LGBT community's point of view, he hopes to reach those listeners who may need to hear the voice of an out, proud gay man.
"Often I think of Harvey Milk's favorite line about the boy from Altona, Pennsylvania You've gotta give 'em hope.' There is always the chance a young queer kid is listening and hearing something encouraging and supportive from this hateful radio his parents have this hateful radio his parents have on all the time and it gives him hope," said Leno. "It is equally im-portant people in the more central parts of the state who only get one side of an argument hear our side.

I encourage everyone to do it."

Next year, he hopes to have some Democratic company inside the white tents, ready to join him in battle inside the lion's den. Besides, notes Leno, "It is free radio." ▼

ESTA NOCHE PRESENT FRIDAY, JUNE 24th BENEFITS AIDS ORGANIZATIONS 9:30 p.m.



Gay vet

◄ page **45**

the policy. Gilchrest, a former sup-porter of the ban, told the AP he changed his view partly out of re-spect for gay Marines he served with in Vietnam and for his broth-

er, who is gay.
Legislative bodies in San Francisco, New York City, and West
Hollywood have all passed resolutions this year calling for an end to

DADT. This week, California's state Senate is expected to give its support to a statewide resolution calling for an end to the policy. If passed by the state Assembly, Cal-ifornia's legislature would become the first in the country calling on military leaders to allow gays and

"It's going to be very signifi-cant nationally when California passes the resolution," said San Francisco resident Jim Maloney, the openly gay director of the Military Education Initiative, which educates veterans about issues impacting gays in the military. "It dovetails nicely with the legislation introduced in Washington." SLDN estimates there are more

than 1 million gay veterans in the U.S. and that there are 65,000 LGBT people currently serving. The Bay Area has the highest concentration of gay veterans, according to the group. Along with tapping gay vets to lobby lawmakers,

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Nafis and Garcia's Karmic contribution

by Zak Szymanski

lack of diversity in the LGBT social scene is a common complaint: lesbians tend to stick together, while gay men have their own activities. Even queer circles that are transgender and dyke inclusive lean toward a racial or class homogeneity.

Enter Nafis and Garcia, who

Enter Nafis and Garcia, who for more than a year have run two popular parties that strive to create community and provide intersections for a variety of people to come together.

come together.

Tema – a weekly world music dance party held every Friday night – and Club Karma – a queer cabaret – both take place at El Rio, a vast bar and performance space that for years has attracted a queer-tinged mix of locals.

caparet – both take place at El Rio, a vast bar and performance space that for years has attracted a queer-tinged mix of locals.

It was here that Nafis first locked eyes with Garcia in the fall of 2002, and the two have been a couple ever since, encouraging each other to do the things they love and cultivate their own talents as artists. Garcia, 29, is the music DJ at both parties, while Nafis, 27, a spoken word artist with a musical background emcees Karma as a "faux queen" – a female-born drag queen who performs elements of femininity through carefully constructed characters. In this scene, the women are known primarily by only their first names, which also serve as their stage names.

serve as their stage names.

Both events have allowed the women to make a modest living at what they do, and both events serve similar functions, to empower and unite a community through a positive, supportive environment.

"We try hard to make it affordable, for working folks who want to go out and celebrate their own culture," said Nafis of Tema, which for a \$5 cover charge features live danceable bands and deejays in the spirit of Brazilian, African, and fusion music and attracts people from the world music scene as well as LGBT circles.

"To have a mixed club – that is the coolest thing," said Nafis, who added that bringing together that diversity comes with a responsibility to ensure that the space is safe for everyone.

bility to ensure that the space is safe for everyone.

The straight crowd, said Garcia, tends to be surprised by the fact that two women are running a world music party and that the dance floor often will fill up with gay men, genderqueers, and lesbians. "But soon everyone is dancing together," she said. "Most people don't even flinch."

The queer crowd has its own



Club Karma's Garcia, left, and Nafis run popular parties that strive to

set of challenges, said Nafis, around embracing a different scene that doesn't mirror what other LGBT clubs offer.

"So often in the women's scene there are all these women dancing to songs about guys' sweaty balls without even realizing it," she said. "I like offering something different to them, and it often opens their minds to what else is out there."

to them, and it often opens their minds to what else is out there."

Club Karma – held several times a year on Saturday evenings – approaches community building from a distinctly queer angle, with an emphasis on diversity within LGBT populations.

Karma features a mix of all personners.

within LGBT populations.

Karma features a mix of all performance art, with a recent lineup including belly dancing, burlesque, break dancing, body contortion, drag kings, spoken word, and live music. It was created as a way to bring people together and also pay for the work of queer artists, who often donate their talents to various causes but who rarely are able to supplement their own incomes. An \$8 cover charge at the door goes toward rewarding the evening's performers with a stipped.

performers with a stipend.

"As an artist I know that a whole lot of events ask for your time for free, to do benefits for the community, which are important. But there wasn't a whole lot out there specifically to cultivate that talent," said Nafis. "I wanted something creative that could

support artists."

An inclusive environment also was key, said the couple, who themselves are often labeled as lesbians despite their identities being firmly rooted along the genderqueer spectrum. Bringing together transgenders, women, dykes, genderqueers, bisexuals, and gays has helped them gain and give respect for a variety of identities and expressions, they said. In this environment, they take seriously their responsibility to ensure that people of all backgrounds and experiences are respected, they said. In return, the space carved out is one where people "inspire each other," said Nafis, with audience members often deciding to pursue talents or new skills, and performers making new connections and forming collaborative relationships.

"Karma is about letting people."

"Karma is about letting people talk to each other. Performers and people in the crowd are always challenging themselves to listen to people of all races, ages, abilities, and cultures. It's important we all experience these things," said Nafis. "When people come in the door, they put the drama away. They are vulnerable, and open to being exposed to new things."

True to its name, Karma gives back to people what they put into it, said Garcia.

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Pageant director stages understanding

by Matthew S. Bajko

eauty pageants, at first look, would seem unlikely av-enues for fostering tolerance for LGBT people and understand ing of gay rights issues. After all, the focus is on (mainly straight) women with stunning good looks, remarkable talents, and increas-

ingly, above average intelligence.
But off stage a large number of
people running the pageants are
out gay men, and they are making
an impact on their more conservative counterparts across the country. Nowhere is this truer than in the nonprofit Miss America competition, where gay men in Southern states play a large role in staging the local all-volunteer run pageants that produce statewide winners for the national title.

"I mean, the organization as a whole tends to be pretty conserv-ative. It is very Christian and very white. The funny thing is, I would say across the country gay men who run the thing are like the worker bees but the national organization is more conservative. I find that a funny paradox," said Nicole Lamarche, winner of the Miss San Francisco and Miss Cal-

Miss San Francisco and Miss California titles in 2003. She placed fourth nationally, bringing her total winnings to \$51,000.

One of those worker bees is Steve Takemura, director of the Miss San Francisco pageant since 2004. Takemura is the latest in a line of gay men stretching back nearly 20 years who have run the local competition. He jokes that the reason for it is "us queens love to just go shopping with the girls" but quickly adds, "it is more than

At stake for the entrants are millions of dollars in college scholarships and a chance to pick scholarships and a chance to pick a serious issue as one's platform and use the megaphone that comes with being a winner to educate the public and open people's minds. HIV and AIDS prevention, social justice, and civil rights are some of the issues past winners have selected. For the gay men, it is an environment where their talents are appreciated.

ents are appreciated.
"In the South there are not a lot of opportunities for socializing, which is why I think a lot of gay men there get involved in the pageant," Takemura said. "In Califerinis"

pageant, Takemura said. 'In California's organization there are just a handful of gay men.'

The pageants may be overlooked in populated urban centers, but in the rural parts of the state, the competitions are the talk of the town, fiercely fought over each year. All the winners of the local competitions then meet anincar competitions then meet an-incar competitions for the Miss Cal-ifornia pageant.

"We are all thrown in the mix from all over the state. It is one of

the few opportunities – beir from the San Francisco bubble to be exposed to other opinions and vice versa," said Lamarche, who graduated from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and on August 1 will start her first job as an associate minister at Wellesley Congregational Church, in Wellesley, Massachusetts. "A lot of people in the Central Valley don't have gay friends in their life. It is a neat opportunity for people to be exposed to different view-

Going to the statewide compe-



Steve Takemura with Nicole Lamarche, who was Miss California in 2003.

tition, which takes place this Saturday night, June 25, on the eve of Pride, "is like going to a different world," said Takemura, who became involved with the pageant four years ago. "Every time I go to Fresno I just appreciate the Bay Area more and more."

Takemura, a single 41-yearold, has yet to face any outward prejudice due to his sexual orientation or his ethnic backgroundhis family is Japanese American. In fact, his work with the pageant has helped him to deal with his own prejudices.

"A lot of people are in their 70s

"A lot of people are in their 70s and I have become friends with them. We all get along really well. In spite of our different backgrounds we have a good time to-gether," he said. "I have learned Republicans are good people too. They are more open-minded than

For the contestants, the gay men are lifelines, helping them pick their outfits, practice their talent, and prepare for the ques-tion and answer portion of the competition. And in the case of a statewide winner like 1 marche statewide winner like Lamarche, they accompany her to the na-tional competition, held in At-lantic City each year. "I have heard from the contes-

"I have heard from the contestants that they like working with gay guys because they are honest, objective, and have a good eye for things," said Takemura.

The friendships become lifelong bonds. In the case of Lamarche, Takemura said, "I want her to marry me when I find a husband."

her to marry me when I mid a husband."

Lamarche said she refers to Takemura as her "gay husband."

"He is like everything as a friend that my boyfriend can't be," she said. "He loves to shop, he loves to gossip, he notices what people wear. We both love to talk politics. He is really committed to his work. Steve was there for me. It is really a job, it is not always glamorous being Miss California."

Born in San Francisco, Takemura moved at age 5 to Marin, and now resides in Mill Valley. The chief financial officer for New Leaf: Services For Our Community, Takemura never planned to be-

ty, Takemura never planned to be-come involved staging beauty pageants. He admits it "was not really a goal or plan or life dream.

next page

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Mentor helps bring Love and Justice to young people

by Zak Szymanski

ove and Justice can hold a variety of meanings for peo-ple, but at the LGBT-focused organization Community United Against Violence, they are two words that stand for "Leaders words that stand for Leaders overcoming violence everywhere joining us together in community empowerment," a program for young people across the Bay Area that helps them build healthy re-lationships lationships.
Four days a week, Tamiko Wil-

son coordinates programming for this innovative effort, which employs and trains about a half a dozen youth who go out into the world and train their peers on is-sues related to domestic violence

and hate crimes.
In a typical workday, Wilson will perform administrative tasks, research grants, plan activities for the Love and Justice youth, staff the phones at CUAV's crisis line, and touch base with a variety of and touch base with a variety of local schools and institutions that are in need of her program's services. She has been doing this work for "three great years," she said, and has cultivated relationships with youth that allow her to serve as a mentor as well as learn serve as a mentor as well as learn

from them.
"I definitely feel like we teach
each other," said Wilson. "I've realized how important they are,
and how much wisdom and in-

sight they have."
It's a job that would be rewarding for many people, but for Wilson, 25, it takes on a deeper signif-

In 2002, Wilson was in a drug and alcohol recovery program, the survivor of a violent childhood who was trying to better her life. When she saw the job announce-ment at CUAV, she said, it seemed ment at CUAV, she said, it seemed like a perfect fit. Providing hope and leadership to young people was something she knew would make a difference. Becoming em-powered herself through these ef-forts was something that came as more of a survive

more of a surprise.
"It has opened a lot of doors for me, and given me a lot of sup-port, too," said Wilson, who is completing her GED and has recompleting her GED and has re-cently registered at San Francisco's City College to pursue more edu-cation in related areas of women's health. "It's a huge plus to come to a job and be able to say, 'Yes, I'm a recovering addict' and not be dis-criminated against." It's that kind of nonjudgmen-tal support that Wilson says she gives to the youth in her program.

tal support that Wilson says she gives to the youth in her program. At program related social events, she said, "We try to encourage the youth not to be under the influence," she said. "Drinking or getting high is a personal choice, but we definitely try to educate them on stuff like that, and we have other organizations come in to talk to them about it and give



CUAV's Tamiko Wilson enjoys a moment with her daughter, Linnea.

them information."

them information."
Wilson's personal journey also
has helped her continue to come
out as queer, she said, which is
"still a process for me." Raised in
the Mission District's Valencia Gardens housing project, most of her family lives in San Francisco, but many of her family members do not know that she is not het-

A little over a year ago, Wilson's

daughter Linnea was born, and the two currently live in a house for recovering mothers that pro-vides skills training and support for residents. Wilson graduated from this program herself and now serves as a monitor for its participants. Although she often

passes for straight in the world, passes for straight in the world, being out in her work and home environments allows her to support others in need. A mother who identifies as a lesbian is currently one of the residents in her house, and "I think it has been helpful for her, to know someone in this role that identifies as queer," she said.

Wilson said that being a mother helps to motivate her work and her goals for the future. While Love and Justice has taught her

Love and Justice has taught her that "there is a lack of resources for youth, who aren't being recog-nized for the abilities they have," Linnea has taught her "to strive for so much more than I ever imagined, because I want her to we the best that she can have."
Wilson, meanwhile, has taught

wison, meanwhile, has taught those around her about their own capacity for creating personal and societal change, according to Tina D'Elia, a CUAV co-worker who advocates for survivors of hate vi-

'Tamiko Wilson has the unstoppable ability of overcoming any difficult situation with grace, any difficult situation with grace, compassion, endless love, social justice, vigor, and an incredible humanity," said D'Elia. "She is a rare jewel in our community, and is so positive, I feel inspired just being in her presence." ▼

Pageant

previous page

It just kind of happened." Not re-

It just kind of happened." Not realizing where it would lead him, the pageant has changed his life.
"Overall, I really enjoy working with the girls and committee members, being able to see them grow and myself growing," said Takemura, who keeps a Miss America Barbie doll in his office at work. "It helped me come to accept the reality that I am 40 and old enough to be their father."

An accepting generation

What strikes him most about being around the contestants, who all must be single and between the ages of 17 and 24, is how accept-ing their generation is with gay

rights.
"People look at things in a dif-ferent way, especially with gay is-sues. It is a non-issue for them," he said. "When you put a human face to it, it changes everything. It goes for those people as well as myself.

I have gotten to be friends with a lot of people."

Through those friendships,

and the connections other gay men involved make, Takemura said he believes the perceptions of the more conservative volunteers

the more conservative volunteers are being changed.

"I talked with a friend of mine in the pageant. She is for gay rights and gay civil unions, yet against gay marriage. Though she will come to my wedding," he said. "They will come and support you as a friend no matter their beliefs. Some friends from the pageant have come out for gay marriage. I was come out for gay marriage. I was surprised because I looked at them as conservative in a lot of ways."

Lamarche said she hopes the national leaders of the Miss America pageant truly appreciate the contributions gay men have made

to the competition.
"I hope that the future leaders of the program will recognize how much gay men have done for the Miss America organization," she said. "They are the worker bees all across the nation." ▼



I am a retired priest. I like ping-pong, piano, karate, tai chi, tennis,and racquetball. I am a senior advisory counselor and volunteer doing kitchen work. The senior center is my place, it gives me a feeling of belonging. This is especially important now that I am retired. It is a place where I can relax and learn a lot more about people

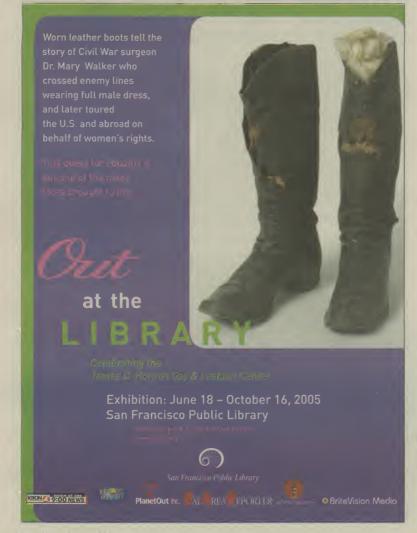
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Literature's queer pioneer

by Zak Szymanski

odie Bellamy's newest book is now available at Wal-Mart. Stacked near Ameri-cana cookbooks and respectable old-fashioned fiction sits *The Let-ters of Mina Harker*, a promiscuous horror-pop journey against the backdrop of the early AIDS crisis told through the voice of a crisis told through the voice of a surviving character of Bram Stok-er's *Dracula*. Originally published in 1998, it was re-released last year by University of Wisconsin Press and touted by writer Dennis Cooper as "one of the most important novels of our time

How the nation's largest family-friendly retail chain came to carry one of the most influential experimental voices from the sexual underground remains a bit of a mystery, though critics have for years complained that the title has not received its due.

not received its due.

But how Bellamy became a literary and queer icon — as a married woman who often writes about sex with gay men — makes perfect sense, at least to anyone

perfect sense, at least to anyone living in San Francisco.

Bellamy's career beginnings can be traced to the new narrative movement of the 1980s, a radical group that included the likes of writers Cathy Acker, Bob Gluck, and Kevin Killian.

"The career writing we cavi

and Kevin Killian.

"The queer writing we envisioned would collapse the boundaries between literary forms and confound the categories of sexuality," Bellamy wrote in the 2000 Village Voice Pride issue about

these early days.

It was in Gluck's workshop that she met Killian, a gay man who seemed an unlikely match for a woman whose romantic relationships began with a 15-year lesbian affair. Their identities and histories intact, Bellamy and Killian fell in love, and were married at San Francisco's City Hall in 1986. Others have been trying to

"I get called 'straight' all the time," said Bellamy, 54, of her interactions outside the Bay Area bubble. A recent Canadian documentary that features her mar-riage is titled Fag Hags, and re-views of the film have suggested that its subjects live in comedic that its subjects live in comedic arrangements or have abandoned their gay identities. The local scene, for all its emerging sexual and gender fluidity, is generally more accepting, but it took people like Bellamy to blaze that trail and to continuously assert a queer identity no matter here incomes identity no matter how inconve-

As a female writer, Bellamy As a female writer, Bellamy found early role models to be scarce. It was writing and socializ-ing in gay male circles, she said, that gave her a vocabulary for her

"I really learned an active, rather than a reactive sexuality," she said. "Hearned how to use sex as a state of being, as the way you take in the world."

Doing this intelligently, and through a structure that challenges the boundaries of essay, fiction, and memoir, is the difference between Bellamy and other writ-



Author Dodie Bellamy challenges the boundaries of queer writing.

ers known for their explicit mateers known for their explicit material. Publishers known for their thought-provoking books have been clamoring for her work; Suspect Thoughts Press released her collection *Pink Steam* last year, and her forthcoming book *Acade*monia is due soon from Factory School Publications.

The irony of Bellamy's writing

career is that the more success she garnered, the less employable she seemed to become. Universities that have been interested in hiring her to teach full-time have expressed concerns over some of her content. Gay male writers are almost required to have a sexual aesthetic, but sexuality in women's

work can be seen by academia as simple perversion without merit. Not to worry, though. Bellamy has been a regular writing teacher at institutions like San Francisco State University, Antioch College in Los Angeles, and Allen Ginsberg's writing program at the Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. She also teaches regularly out of her home, fostering an environment that offers smart

input and regular community to a predominately queer workshop with high artistic standards.

"It's hard to find a space to get serious feedback on sexual writing," she said. "I wanted to have a space where having sexual writing ould be just like any other tonic."

could be just like any other topic." Bellamy's 10-week workshops Bellamy's 10-week workshops are offered every few months, and from these she often solicits work from her students for readings and publications, providing them with opportunities for getting their own work out into the world.

What she gives to the commu-nity she has received in return from younger queer circles, she said, and she credits writers like Michelle Tea – author of Valencia and The Chelsea Whistle – for creating a strong queer female cul-ture for writers and performers of all ages, backgrounds, and abili-

ties.
"It's been so healing for me to know the younger queer commu-nity. Any residual issues I've had nity. Any residual issues I've had about being a woman in this society have been wiped away," said Bellamy, who has read with the famous Sister Spit tour created by Tea and fellow wordsmith Sini Anderson, and at Kvetch, the longest-running queer open mike in San Francisco hosted by Lynn Breedlove and Tara Jepsen. "It has radicalized me in a way that's readicalized me in a way tha radicalized me in a way that's re-ally empowering, particularly around issues like the body, and sex and gender fluidity. I wish all this stuff was around when I was younger.'

Tea said she feels similarly in-

spired by Bellamy.
"Dodie is a writer I like to read before sitting down to write my own stuff," said Tea. "Her prose is own stuff," said lea. "Her prose is liberating and inspiring — the way she talks both plainly and lushly about desire and the body and fe-maleness, the way she takes dare-devil chances with form and structure, it's like the intellectual equivalent of doing pilates." ▼

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Lynice Pinkard

Ghosts: Decolonizing the Churches of our Youth."

We need to utilize our own histories as African American LGBTs to understand and uncover the more radical parts of Christianity," she said.

tianity," she said.

"Remember that Jesus, that Jesus, that Jesus apoor, land-less radical/revolutionary. He stood up and fought the powers that be. Today we'd say that he stood up against homeland security,"

Pinkard's worldview reflects her mission as pastor and thera-

"Faith gives people the ability to resist forms of oppression. I'd like black people of faith to make the connection between the resisthe connection between the resis-tance movement of the early church – of Jesus in particular – and the history of African Ameri-can peoples who have fought on

all kinds of liberation fronts.

"Resistance to every form of "Resistance to every form of suffering and oppression is a mandate. We must connect our suffering to the suffering that's happening all over the world and to the environment. We can get power from connecting to coalitions fostering what I call collective projects for freedom." ▼



Woman in red sachets with pride

by Matthew S. Bajko

n her signature red couture Donna Sachet has dazzled, entertained, and wowed San Francisco for the last dozen years, raising thousands of dollars for local AIDS agencies and various LGBT groups.

LGBT groups.

After two earlier noms, and friends joking she was becoming the Susan Lucci of grand marshal nominees, Sachet took top honors in this year's grand marshal voting and will help lead this year's Pride Parade Sunday, June 26. Expect to see a whole lotta red in her contingent

tingent.
"I am tickled to prove them wrong and be the top vote-getter from the community. I think it is an acknowledgment of the different groups I am proud to support," said Sachet, who is as at home at a Pacific Heights political fundraiser as an Eagle beer benefit or an Edge leather part.

or an Edge leather party.

Her selection has caused somewhat of a ruckus regarding her replacement as KRON 4's parade coverage co-host. Sachet co-anchored the live television coverage of the June 2002 SF Pride Parade on the WB20 network and since June 2003 on KRON 4. This year KRON producers asked San Francisco Police Officer Lenny Broberg to fill in for Sachet, passing over Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who the station said would be too political. Some in the community criticized the reasoning, noting the parade is itself political and the gay community has protested the police department during past Prides.

rade is used pointed and the gay community has protested the police department during past Prides. Sachet said she has been surprised but not shocked by the criticisms.

icisms.

"We all deserve to be heard. I would be upset if it became rancorous or counterproductive. KRON is a business and they need to make a business decision," she said. "I certainly have no power over selecting my replacement. I did make them sign 'in blood' that I would be back there next year. I think they are glad because they don't want to go through that again."

agam. Moving in 1990 from New York City, where she said she also volunteered but felt like a "small cog in a huge machine" Sachet saw right away that she could play a bigger role in San Francisco's gay community.

"In San Francisco, I immediately found organizations were much smaller, more grassroots, volunteer driven. People were receptive to fresh ideas and people creating new events and suggesting things. That receptivity encouraged my birth and growth as Donna," said Sachet. "I am at a loss to put a label on what I have become. I pride myself on being able to cross over so many different boundaries, from being comfortable in the halls of City Hall and the heart of the Tenderloin speaking to my fellow drag queens to people in the leather and straight communities."

and the heart of the Tenderloin speaking to my fellow drag queens to people in the leather and straight communities."

Sachet, who preferred not to divulge her birth name, said she does maintain a boundary between being Donna and being her male self.

"I definitely have a strict division in my own head for the two lives. When I am my male persona, even walking down Castro Street in the afternoon to shop and pop in to stores, no one knows who I am," she said. "Right now, my more San Francisco personality happens to be a female persona at this point."



Grand marshal Donna Sachet on the roof of the LGBT Community Center

When asked how old she is, Sachet joked her age is 12. Twelve years ago while performing at a gay men's chorus retreat, Donna Sachet was born. Originally, her drag persona was to be Donna Winter, since she was inspired by Donna Summer, who had a new

Donna Summer, who had a new album out that year.

"I had always wanted to perform in drag, and I thought what more supportive group to debut before than the gay men's chorus. I had been listening to Donna Summer's songs and said I better be Donna Winter since she is black and I am white," she said. "The chorus hooted and hollered and loved it. As I was strutting up to the stage I heard someone say, 'look at her sachet."

Thus, Donna Sachet was born.

Thus, Donna Sachet was born. Since that inaugural performance, the award-winning chanteuse has gone on to present her benefit parties for the AIDS Emergency

Fund and Positive Research Center. Her "Songs of the Season" holiday variety show raises thousands of dollars each year for AEF.

A former national spokesmodel for Smirnoff Twist vodka, Sachet has traveled the globe, performing in Washington, D.C.; Sydney, Australia for Gay Mardi Gras; New York City; in Los Angeles at the Metropolitan Community Church with the cast of Mama Mia; and in Chicago at the Mr. International Leather competition. She also can be heard on the benefit holiday compilation Carols Across America.

In 1993 she won the Miss Gay San Francisco contest and two

San Francisco contest and two years later became the 30th elected Empress of the city. It was during her campaign for empress that red became her signature color. As part of the competition, entrants have to pick a color as part of their campaign. "I looked in my closet and saw I had more red dresses than any other color," said Sachet. "It was just happenstance. As time has gone on, blondes look great in red. It seems to be a powerful color so it has worked well for me."

Her volunteer work goes beyond just performing and hosting parties. She has served on PRC's board. as co-chair of the Imperial

Her volunteer work goes beyond just performing and hosting parties. She has served on PRC's board, as co-chair of the Imperial Council, and president of the Empress' Council. She currently serves on the board of directors of the SF LGBT Community Center and Equality California.

and Equality California.

"I think part of the wonderful power of what Donna has grown into is I can add to and help an organization by attending an event and bumping the party up a little bit," she said. "I am asked to emcee, add an extra element of

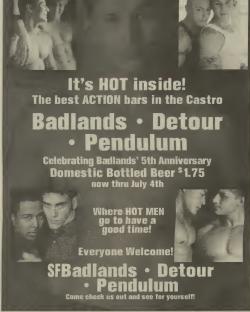
fun, energy and glamour. I help to increase the money raised that night for that cause."

'First lady'

One of her most cherished titles is that of "first lady" for Mark Leno, first when he became a city supervisor and later when he became one of the first openly gay men to serve in the Statehouse as an assemblyman. "It is one of the most satisfying

"It is one of the most satisfying and empowering things for me that he has acknowledged the presence of somebody who might not be the expected person by his side. He embraces our community, and its diverse community," she said. "I am a drag person with something to say. I consider myself a partner with him on many of his ventures,

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We needed Juanita More

by Zak Szymanski

rag might look like all fun and games, but for many it also serves as way to give back to others

Juanita More is most known for her drag queen character – a "good time gal" who performs old blues and soul at venues around blues and soul at venues around the city. But she has a long history of charitable work, beginning with her volunteer work at the be-ginning of the HIV/AIDS epi-demic and continuing with her donating her performances to raise money for a variety of non-profits and causes in pred profits and causes in need

More is one of this year's Pride Parade grand marshals, an honor that recognizes her years of dedication to the LGBT community. It is estimated that More's performances and fundraising work for beneficiaries such as AGUILAS, Visual AID, AIDS Benefit Counselors (now the Positive Resource Center), Academy of Friends, Larkin Street Youth Center, Tom Ammiano for Mayor, Lavender Youth Recreation and Informa-tion Center, and Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center have helped to raise over \$1 million for these ef-

forts, an accomplishment she still has difficulty comprehending.
"It started off as fun. It became an avenue to reach more people and do more things," she said. "Once it took off, I was so happy Once it took oft, I was so happy doing it. I'm always surprised by the attendance and always shocked by the success of the events. I just plan them, and people come, and I'm like, 'Wow, that was easy, Let's do it again."

Her performance persona has

Her performance persona has helped her build bridges to many communities, from the popula-tions that access the gay Latino group AGUILAS, where she has group AGUILAS, where she has served as fundraising chair, to the youth at LYRIC and Larkin Street to the group of dedicated men who follow her through the city and are known as "More Boys." Through these connections, she said she is continuing to undersaid, she is continuing to under-

stand the ever-changing needs of people as HIV continues to spread.

"Many of the young boys I hang out with are still testing positive, and I'm still shocked and baffled by it. I wonder if there really is going to be an end to it," she said. Part of the problem may be that so many people have come of age in an HIV-normalized culture, she said, where "everything they've ever learned about sex has to do with HIV and AIDS."

At social events and dinners,

At social events and dinners, More said, she is often engaging in conversations about how best to handle new prevention efforts.
"We talk about it all the time,"

she said. "I ask people what they want to work on and whether there are issues we could all tackle

Services for LGBT youth as well as seniors are two areas in need of improvement where she plans to dedicate more of her own energy. For HIV outreach to work, More said, "You've got to have your pulse on what's going on, that's for sure.

More is in drag more often than not, and "Oh my god, I love it," she said. It has been a while since she has experienced homophobia on has experienced ioniophobia on the streets, but there still can be some drag-phobia and residual racism in LGBT circles, she said. "I've had to wait outside at some bars," she said. "There is a

hierarchy in the gay community. Drag has always been toward the bottom of the gay totem pole and I've known that forever," she said.

But the good experiences far outweigh the bad, she said, and this year's Pride will afford her the opportunity to reach out to the LGBT community in its entirety.

Grand marshal Juanita More!

"I was totally surprised and honored," said More of the community vote that elected her as a grand marshal. In addition to pergrand marsial in addition oper-forming at the Fag Fridays stage at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, More will give a public speech during the festivities, which she will use as a tool to encourage

more unity.

"I've been thinking about how diverse our community is, and how I'd like to see all those different things come together, in art and love and happiness and peace," she said. ▼

Immediately after Pride, More, along with grand marshal TARC at the Bambuddha
Lounge, 601 Eddy Street, at 5 p.m. For more information visit www.juanitamore.com.





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Out & Equal

◄ page **50**

make the index more rigorous to more clearly distinguish them-selves as innovators.

selves as innovators.

In Out & Equal's "Building Bridges" diversity training program, LGBT workplace leaders go into companies and volunteer leading "LGBT issues 101." Participants create personal action plans for change. Clients are more receptive to the Building Bridges presentation when attending volpresentation when attending vol-

presentation when attending vol-untarily, Berry noted.

"If it's mandatory, then it's scary," she said. "We walk people through the curriculum, talk specifically, and give them language and stories, policies to put in place."

Companies benefit from diver-

sity training through improved LGBT employee retention and recruitment, open communication, increased morale and productivity, and improved community percep-

and improved community percep-tion leading to more customers. More recently, some compa-nies proactively and aggressively recruit at LGBT job fairs and list employment notices in gay news-papers. They market to the LGBT community, and to increase brand loyalty and visibility some create LGBT-specific advertising. At last count, 36 Fortune 100 companies do LGBT marketing.

"Studies show our community is very loyal to brands that support us," said Berry. "Gay people remind each other of what companies are doing the right thing. We say thank you, and pass that along."

0&E's history

Out & Equal came together in a circuitous way when in 1998, Building Bridges, 12 Bay Area emresource groups,

Progress, a leadership development group started in 1995, all joined to become the Pride Collaborative. Building Bridges itself started in 1990 out of Berkeley's Pacific Center. Led by Berry, the group provided sensitivity training to United Way-funded nonprofits after Unit-ed Way Bay Area requested all its funded nonprofits to sign nondis-crimination agreements. In 1999, the Pride Collabora-

tive merged with Colleagues, the sponsor of Out & Equal conferences, to form Out & Equal Work-

place Advocates.

Out & Equal has grown from just Berry and volunteer board members to seven paid staff members today. The agency rents office space from United Way at Howard and Main streets and has regional affiliates in New York and Dallas.

"United Way had a lot to do with us being where we are today," said Bueche

said Bueche.

Also in 1999, Progress' leader-ship summit and Colleagues' Out & Equal conference joined to pro-duce the Out & Equal Workplace

The summit has grown to 750 human resources professionals, employee resource group leaders, diversity managers, and others at-tending and leading 75 workshops and panels where last year in Tempe, Arizona, they required booking two spillover hotels. The number of corporate sponsors of the summit has grown in six years to the current 60 or 70 including Cargill, Motorola, Citigroup, and Raytheon

Out & Equal will host its sixth annual summit this September in Denver. In the summit catalog, companies tout their dedication and commitment to progressive attitudes as trend-setting LGBT equality leaders with full-page ads

and workshop listings.

"They send in proposals," said Bueche. "It's competitive."

Other programs of the agency include Out & Equal's regular Pride Power breakfasts, regional networking events started in 1997 that are attended by 70 to 100.

hetworking events stated in 1997 that are attended by 70 to 100 people every other month. Hosts of the events have in-cluded Charles Schwab, Genen-tech, Kaiser Permanente, Wells Fargo, the Gap, and the American Cancer Society, leading talks on such topics as corporate giving, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," LGBT high school students, the Knight initia-tive, and juggling full-time work

with volunteer responsibilities.

Bueche called it "low on program, so people don't have to listen to talking heads."

The "Town Call" meeting series started in May, and is a virtual classroom educational teleconference with quest speaker presen. ference with guest speaker presentations on current topics and a brief question and answer session brief question and answer session.
Over 100 people, mostly HR staff,
including callers from JP Morgan
Chase, IBM, and other companies
and nonprofits participated in the
first 45-minute Town Call with
PlanetOut's openly gay CEO Lowell Selvin, who discussed his career roots, the difference authenticity made in his life, and PlanetOut's public offering.

Berry called the meetings a way

to connect for rural people with-out easy access to that informa-tion. And she's continuing to call for LGBT people to come out at

their companies.
"Stand up and make a difference whether in the mailroom or the executive office." said Berry. ▼

For more information, visit www.outandequal.org



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James Hormel has long stood proud

by Tyson Gillfillan

here are those in politically left-leaning circles who be-lieve if you draw the ire of John Ashcroft, Trent Lott, and Jesse Helms, you must be doing something right. When James C. Hormel was asked by President Clinton to serve as U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, his confirmation was stalled for nearly two years by the homophobic rhetoric of the three conservative Republi

And that's something the com-And that's something the com-munity remembered when it chose Hormel as a grand marshal in the public voting that took place earlier this year. "Honors such as this are very interesting," said Hormel. "They reflect on the community's desire

renect on the community a cesire to acknowledge a person's work to advance the community well-being, and they encourage participation among other members. But as the honoree, they are always in danger of being taken too seriously."

seriously."
"Gay Pride is appropriate and important to celebrate individuality," said Hormel. "A statement quite different from what it was." Hormel attended New York's first gay Pride marches in the early 1970s, and described them as quite extraordinary and inspir ing," with a "warm, communal feeling. It's easy to become formu-laic, and forget what we're cele-

brating."
Such activities may have hampered his efforts to serve as ambassador to Luxembourg. He rebassador to Luxembourg. He re-called, "During the Senate confir-mation hearings, a not-to-be-named senator said to me, 'I don't understand why YOU PEOPLE indulge in exhibitions like Pride Day Parades.' I responded, 'If you've ever been to Mardi Gras then wou'd know you were indiging then you'd know you were judging us by appearances without notic-ing that heterosexuals indulge in a

Despite previously serving on the U.S. delegation to the United



As his partner Timothy Wu looks on, James C. Hormel is sworn in as ambassador to Luxembourg by then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on June 29, 1999.

Nations Human Rights Commission, his Senate detractors were spurred on by the right-wing Traditional Values Coalition, and held up his confirmation. Opponents of Hormel insisted that sending a gay ambassador to a tra-ditionally Catholic country like Luxembourg would be a mistake - despite insistence by that nation's officials that he would be welcome. Finally, in 1999, President Clinton took advantage of a congressional recess session to make Hormel the first openly gay U.S. ambassador.

Hormel's vast community work was immortalized through his efforts to help build the Gay and Les-bian Center at the San Francisco Public Library, which bears his name. He has also been actively in-volved with the American Foundavolved with the American Founda-tion for AIDS Research, the Human Rights Campaign, and was a founding member of the City Club of San Francisco. He currently serves actively on the board of managers for his alma mater, Swarthmore, and is a member of the board of governors for the San Francisco Symphony, board of trustees of the San Francisco Foundation, board of directors of Peo-ple for the American Way, board of trustees of Grace Cathedral, and most recently joined the board of governors of the Commonwealth

Club of California.

The great diversity among these groups speaks to his desire to help forge relationships among different communities. He said when choosing which organizations to become actively involved with, he takes into account his available time, primary interests, how he as an individual can best serve the organization, and how his presence will help advance issues and build bridges.

Despite the large number of organizational boards on which he serves, he describes each one with the excitement and affection of a proud father. One LGBT issue he and his partner, Timothy Wu, feel particularly passionate about these days is marriage equality. "It's important to remember

that this fight is not new," said Hormel. "Hawaii first took it up 15 years ago when three same-sex couples sued for marriage equality. On this issue the courts have routinely found prohibiting samesex marriage unconstitutional which explains the rash of discriminatory amendments. I think we're winning – although it might not always appear like it." Hormel was born in Minneso-

ta 72 years ago into the prosper-

ous meatpacking family responsi-ble for introducing Spam into the world. In the 1950s he graduated from Pennsylvania's Swarthmore College with a degree in history, and he received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. During that time he also married Alice Turner, a relationship that ended amicably 10 years later

when he began "coming out."

Hormel served as assistant dean and later dean of students at his former law school, and in 1986 established the James C. Hormel Public Service program, which encourages University of Chicago Law students to enter public ser-

Hormel began his advocacy work within the local LGBT com-munity when he moved to San munity when he moved to San Francisco during the 1970s – a time he calls "the Anita Bryant peak." He and other community activists fought against the Briggs initiative, a California ballot measure that sought to prohibit gays from being hired as public school teachers. "This movement was the first constitutional ballot measure of political consequence for less."

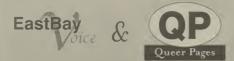
first constitutional ballot measure of political consequence for lesbians and gays," said Hormel. Voters defeated the initiative.

He believes that eventually rational discourse will overcome "reactionary fundamentalist rants," and some 5,000 same-sex couples marrying in Massachusetts will help teach the public not

setts will help teach the public not to fear marriage equality.

"When we recognize each other at a basic human level—that we all have the same wants, and needs and failings, we can no longer harbor feelings of discon-pact, and hignery." as all Hornel. inner naroor reeings of disconnect and bigotry," said Hormel. Through living his ideals, working to build bridges and connect disparate organizations and diverse people, he's helping to dispel that bigotry.

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QUEERing the East Bay

Donna Sachet

◄ page **65**

whether it's his re-election campaigns or passing legislation through. Politics is in my blood and he has given me a voice for that." In Leno's mind Sachet becom-ing the first lady of District 13 (his

Assembly district) and of District 8 (his old supervisor district) was a natural fit.

We have been friends for years and have supported each other in our community efforts. She was a hostess at my first fundraiser. It just popped out of my mouth one night that she is my first lady," said

night that she is my first lady," said Leno, who was escorted by Sachet to his swearing in at the state Capitol in December 2002. Leno remembers walking down the steps of City Hall in Jan-uary 1999 after his swearing in ceremony as supervisor and his 80-something father asking him,

"who is that tall woman in red?" Leno's cousin, seeing Sachet with a friend in police garb, remarked, "How great it is that San Francisco provides police escorts for our

co provides pointed and drag queens."

To Leno, Sachet represents the best aspects of the gay community.

"She exists to bring good will, good cheer, good spirit and a sense of volunteerism to everyone and aware event. She is a good-will and every event. She is a good-will ambassador," said Leno.

And she will be someone by Leno's side as long he is in office. Some years back Sachet said she told Leno she would understand if the two had to end her status as his first lady.
"I told him if there is ever a

time when I am something you do not need by your side because I am an embarrassment, let me know, for I want to see you go as far as you can go. He just said to me, 'I am proud of all of my community and you are part of that. I will never be ashamed of you."
"I think I didn't realize until a

couple years ago when I read somewhere someone describing how as you grow as an adult, at some point in life the things you were teased for, criticized for, [the things] people tried to eliminate from your life are the things you cherish more and more," she said.
"Now I can stand in front of a crowd and let my feminine side of myself out and be celebrated for it. It is wonderful. Now I can open my peacock feathers and have a great time." ▼

Fellow grand marshal Juanita More and Sachet are hosting a more and Sacnet are nosting a post-parade party called "Lashes," the official Grand Marshal After Party, at the Bambuddha Lounge, 601 Eddy Street, benefiting Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center. Tickets cost \$10 cost \$10.

Schwab

■ page **55**

ship for outstanding high school students from area gay-straight al-

As today's business environment has shifted to become more competitive, and employees' time becomes ever limited, GLOBES leaders say their role within the firm is actually expanding. "We're an employee resource group, but also a resource for the company as well," said Oliver.

"Our next big challenge is to

navigate the opportunities for Schwab to connect to the community," said Levitt. Through activities like hosting gay and lesbian financial planning workshops, and seminars on the implications of domestic partnership registration, "GLOBES is in a unique position to help each of Schwab's branches become proactive in dealing with the unique financial needs of the gay and lesbian community." Sabbagh had first hand experi-

ence with such outreach, who affluent gay couple in New Jersey called their local Schwab branch to find out the company's commitment to diversity. As chair of GLOBES at the time, Sabbagh said

GLOBES at the time, Sabbagh said he coached the branch manager through the couple's issues of concern, which brought in a \$25 million account for the company.

The group itself has no official plans for Pride this year, though many of its members are active with community organizations and groups outside of tions and groups outside of work. By staying active, advocat-ing for one another and for the rompany, being visible as "out" professionals, Oliver said he thinks they are living the spirit of pride each day.



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1890s," said Clyde Hall,

Shoshone two-spirit elder and Burns's best friend. GAI, which eventually had

1,000 members, became both a family to hook up with upon leav-ing the reservation for many young Indians, and a living coun-

when the scholarly research among anthropologists.

"There were no homeless then," said Burns. "We stayed in each other's houses."

Most Castro Street bars carded Indians, and rejected their Bureau

Indians, and rejected their Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal enrollment ID cards, said Burns. So they partied unharrassed in Tenderloin and South of Market leather bars like the Peter Pan, Ram's Head, Landmark, Queen Mary's, Pilsner, and Naked Grape.

"The Castro is historically anti-Indian," said Burns, foreshadow-

Indian," said Burns, foreshadow-ing recent racism issues in the dis-trict. "We traveled in groups so we wouldn't be intimidated, You're not going to card 30 Indians." They wrote speeches collec-tively. Co-founder Barbara Mary Cameron, a Standing Rock, South

Dakota native, enforced GAI's gender-balanced leadership, col-

laborated with Bay Area Gay Liberation members and Radical Faeries at the unofficial 62 Page Street organizing center, and once raised \$10,000 in two days run-

ning a Stanford powwow food booth.

booth.

Owing to AIDSphobia in the American Indian population, and friends' deaths (Burns stopped counting at 65, he said), GAI organized the American Indian AIDS Institute, the first group of its kind providing emotional, practical, and spiritual support, later replaced by the Native American AIDS Project, initiated by the

ican AIDS Project, initiated by the health department. After graduating from the City College nursing program on the dean's list, Burns has been a nurse

in public and private practice for

Randy Burns shares his spirit

by Kevin Davis

he Pride Parade grand mar-shal election of Randy Burns, a Northern Paiute from Pyramid Lake, Nevada, cele-brates a man who resurrected long-dormant traditional indigenous American queer culture in the 1900s, and who embodies the historical truth that the point of LGBT liberation is not merely equality, integration, and assimi-lation, but recovery of the com-munity's sacred, vital place in so-

Burns, 50, spearheaded Gay American Indians 30 years ago, reconnecting transplanted gay urban Indians with their histori-cally exalted tribal two-spirit status (one the U.S. government systematically suppressed in the years since European contact with North America); addressing traditional healing and talking circles; communicating and networking with anthropologists of first American civilizations; and nurs-ing "warriors" lost to AIDS. He is a passionate cheerleader and dy-namic diplomat for and among his community and one reason Bay Area Native Americans thrive

GAI members, as the cradle of the queer Indian movement, have the queer indian movement, nave served as a model to the LGBT community at large, as healers, matchmakers, teachers, babysit-ters, trendsetters, dancers, couples counselors, and masters of eti-

Burns was born in 1955 to full-

blooded Northern Paiutes – his mother, a Washoe County school district baker and ranchers' housekeeper, and father, an \$8-per-day ranch hand, on Nevada's Pyramid Lake Reservation. His bootlegging grandfather owned the reservation's first Model T. While cattlemen's sons called

While cattlemen's sons called him "skunk," Burns ran high school cross-country, and anthro-pologist Margaret Mead, a visiting lecturer at the University of Nevada, Reno, spoke at the First Americans Club that Burns founded his senior year. He attended Truckee Meadows Community College and hitchhiked to San Francisco

Attending San Francisco State University in 1975, Burns joined the Student Council of Inter-Tribal Nations, and the Gay and Les-bian Student Union (with fellow member, Names Quilt-founder Cleve Jones), in an era of provocative visiting ethnic studies profes-sors like Maya Angelou and An-gela Davis. He worked at Valencia Street's American Indian Center during summer breaks.

To understand why five Native activists gathering together at the Twin Peaks bar until closing time in 1975 was so significant, one must view them in historical con-

In early post-colonial America. two-spirit people in opposite gen-der clothes, and carrying a tribe's cultural memory, were among the first worked to death, murdered, or exiled by Christian missionar

Those in the generation before



Randy Burns in traditional Northern Paiute headdress, June 1992

Burns self-identified as gay, and sought to organize an empowering, living link to queer Native Americans' formerly honored role as cultural ambassadors, something both the LGBT civil

"It was the first time that gay

the last 10 years and once "doctored" three San Francisco General Hospital rooms by smudging them with sweet grass after lights flickered mysteriously.

Next generation

A younger, hip-hop generation calling themselves Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits followed GAI in the late 1990s, staging drag king and drag queen shows and monthly potlucks.

A "new bread of activism"

A "new breed of activism," Burns said. "They're educated,

very smart kids."

"The door is open to our youth that was closed to me," said Burns. see BAAITS carrying on the

Today, Burns volunteers his emotional, spiritual and moral support in traditional ceremonies, including listening to patients. It's a result of the strong traditional Indian skill in conflict resolution mediating, he said.

Burns also works on his archive, and is seeking submissions for a new two-spirit literary anthology he is editing. He also coordinates major Native American events, connecting fellow activists, he admits, with old tech-

nology.

"Randela is still sending up smoke signals," other Native activists say of Burns.

"E-mail queens – can't stand the bitches," Burns said with a

He has been invited to speak at the University of Utah gender studies program and recently received his first individual foundation grant to produce a one-hour video on his family, Paiute language, and culture at Pyramid Lake where the Paiutes today boast a new fire station, health clinic, Head Start program, gym, and computer learning center thanks partly to his sister's efforts in securing other casino tribes' windfall profits.

The University of Minnesota

has expressed interest in purchas-ing Burns's extensive papers, in-cluding the product of his 30-year hobby clipping articles on LGBT issues in Indian and mainstream newspapers. He is deciding whether to donate copies of his collection to SFSU, his family, or adding to his papers at the GLBT

"Girlfriend, I hope you have a will," a friend told him. "I don't want to fight with [esteemed anthropologist of gay Indians] Will

This year's Pride festival fea-This year's Pride festival reatures a Two-Spirit Nation area with tepee, community group information booths, and a stage featuring snake-, round-, and hoop-dancing exhibitions, poetry, and a Sisters of the Korn performance. ▼

Burns - raised in military-like boarding camps, their religion and language outlawed, who set-tled in the Mission District and Tenderloin in the 1930s – were somewhat jealous of a new 1960s militant American Indian Move-ment, when, for example, during the Indian Alcatraz Island takeover, gay Indians worked behind the scenes

rights movement and American Indian Movement needed.

American Indians stepped for-ward as an entity, since before the

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Karma

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"Within the show there is a give and take – I work with you, and I learn from you," she said. "Within the audience everybody is learning and getting something from the experience. There's a whole lot of love."

Others have taken notice as well. On Friday, June 17, the film Karma premiered at the Roxie Cinema as part of Frameline, the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival. The 30-minute documentary by Michael LaRocco featured scenes from the club's performances and interviews with participants and attendees.

Aside from the satisfaction of providing a "cultural staple" to their community, Garcia said there are personal benefits to pro-

ducing their own parties.
"I get to create my own job and go around and sort of pick out who is a part of my staff," she said. "When I'm at work, I get to work with all these amazing artists. I'm very lucky." ▼

The next Karma will be held at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, on Saturday, July 30 at 9 p.m., and features free barbecue and a screening of the newly released documentary about the club. For more information, visit www.elriosf.com.



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Moore than a woman

by Zak Szymanski

f there is one thing that has driven all of Peggy Moore's endeavors – from the artistic to the political – it is her personal duty to preserve and contribute to a sense of community.

a sense of community.

The 41-year-old activist, organizer, and photographer moved to the Bay Area in 1991 and soon began building institutions and traditions to serve the LGBT pop-ulation. She is the founder of the East Bay's annual Dyke March, also known as "Sistahs Steppin' in Pride"; she served on former City Council member Danny Wan's LGBT roundtable; she has per-IGBT roundtable; she has per-formed voter outreach for cam-paigns such as No on Knight, the effort against California's gay mar-riage ban; and she was the only openly LGBT person who ran for Oakland City Council in the spe-cial election to replace Wan that

wrapped up last month.

Moore did not win that election, but she did win one of the highest honors for an LGBT com-munity member: the membership of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee, in recognition of her years of service, voted her in as one of this year's Pride Parade grand mar-

"It's crazy. It's so exciting. It took a while for it to really res-onate," said Moore of her selection as grand marshal.

Such a spotlight on her contri-butions was a bit unfamiliar to

"I'm a doer. I've only been mo-tivated because of the people in this community," she said. What sparked her involvement

was simply witnessing the com-munity that existed around her,

"The catalyst for me was going to my first lesbian wedding. A mentor of mine – a straight woman – took me there, and I walked into a room of over 100 black lesbians, and that experience opened me up to a whole new world," said Moore, recalling her earliest LGBT efforts. After this experience, Moore joined the NIA collective, an organization dediconective, an organization dedi-cated to empowering lesbians of African descent. The word "Nia" means "purpose" in Swahili and is the fifth principle of Kwanzaa. The Oakland-based collective, which Oakland-based collective, which has been hosting annual conferences for the past 18 years, "afforded me the opportunity to engage with LGBT issues," said Moore, who describes Oakland's women's community as a uniquely integrated, powerful force of its

own.

"Oakland has a very large women's movement. And I think that in some ways, the women's movement has always been one that has a very diverse community," she said. "But I do think we can all get a little comfortable in our own social circles, and that there are ways we can continue to come together.'

To that end, Sistahs Steppin' in Pride was launched by Moore and a group of women three years ago after they had attended San Fran-

cisco's Dyke March and stather city needed its own representation of local community with a worldly influence. Having a leadership of isco's Dyke March and decided march with a leadership of women of color was important, they decided, as was not using mainstream language to describe their movement.

"I felt that it was important, and okay to do this, to step up and say, "We have a rich lesbian com-munity here and we're very," ent from any other city," said

The march has become an allday event that takes place every August and features women drummers, craft vendors, speak-ers, and entertainment. This year the celebration takes place August

Moore has ties to other seg-ments of the LGBT community as well. Two years ago, she began working at the organization Lavender Seniors, which seeks to improve the quality of life of older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gender residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties through outreach, advocacy, and educa

"The opportunity to work with the elders of our community makes me a richer person," said Moore, who said this work helped her decide to run for City Council.

Running for office provided her with hands-on training on what the political process is all about, she said, and inspired oth-ers to get involved with the process.
"I've had many people say to



Grand marshal Peggy Moore: "I've only been motivated because of the people in this community."

me that because I ran, they paid attention," said Moore. "They saw somebody real who they had access to and wasn't so separate from their lives. Many people who volunteered for my campaign were doing this kind of stuff for the first time."

the first time."

Being a part of the process is important, said Moore, particularly for minority communities.
"I've always believed you have to be at the table to know what's going on," she said. "And I had the time and the energy to do that."

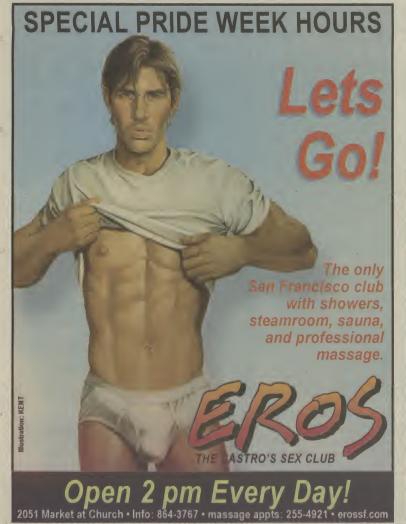
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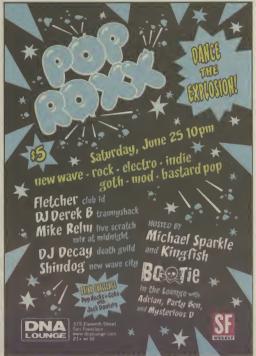
Outside of the political and nonprofit arena, Moore has also been quietly building bridges between LGBT people and the world at large through her photography. Privately, her work includes large collections of the African American women's community and LGBT history. But to make a living, she often documents events hosted or led by heterosexuals. By being an out lesbian in those settings, she said she is able to educate others in a more personable. cate others in a more personable

"There might be one person who gets a new perspective, who has an opportunity to ask questions they probably never would ask anyone," said Moore. "In those settings I am first seen as a photographer."

Being out in one's daily life helps the world get familiar with LGBT people, she said.

"I'm more than just a lesbian. I'm more than any one thing than I am," said Moore. "I am who I am, and I am all of who I am. \[\blacktriangle \] am, and I am all of who I am.





Penny Nixon: Putting a public face on queer spirituality

by Kevin Davis

he Reverend Dr. G. Penny Nixon will not only lead a church-sponsored float as a Pride Parade grand marshal this year, the esteemed senior pastor at the 550-congregation Metropolitan Community Church - San tan Community Church - San Francisco is preaching a June ser-mon series on this year's Pride theme, "Stand up, Stand Out, Stand Proud." Whether addressing interfaith, LGBT groups, college and high school students, or a doc-tor's association on treating queer tor's association on treating queer patient issues, on her peace and social justice themes, Nixon puts a

social justice themes, Nixon puts a public face on queer Christianity.

Nixon was chosen for the grand marshal honor by the Pride Committee's college of former marshals. The contingent's float will celebrate the Castro church's 35th anniversary.

35th anniversary.
"I'm always out about who I am and what our church is about,"

am and what our church is about, said Nixon, 48. Requesting one double bed to a hotel proprietor when vacation-ing with Annlee McGurk, her a hotel proprietor when vacationing with Annlee McGurk, her partner of more than 10 years, or on her recent two-week Grand Canyon trip, Nixon refuses to monitor her language, referring to McGurk, who she married in Canada, as "honey" in front of other campers, and corrects strangers' assumptions. "She's not my friend, she's my partner."

"I'm as out as you can get all the time," she said. To telemarketers asking for her husband, "I say, 'I'll get her."

"It's an honor," she said of her grand marshal duty. "I'm very thrilled and happy to do it."

Nixon gained her "embodied and prophetic theology," a "lived spirituality," from working as a Presbyterian missionary in Soweto, South Africa with antiapartheid groups and serving the church during the darkest years of the AIDS epidemic.

"One-of the things about queer spirituality is we recognize once

"One of the things about queer spirituality is we recognize once again the sacredness of bodies," as



Grand marshal Penny Nixon: "I'm always out about who I am and what our church is about." $\label{eq:continuous}$

the sight of religious experience,

she said. MCC-SF follows Mahatma MCC-SF follows Mahatma Ghandi's suggestion to be the change you seek, transforming oneself, the larger community, and working inside to change religion as a whole.

"What good is belief in God if you are not acting out the values."

you are not acting out the values of human dignity and inclusive compassion? Particularly, one of the calls is to challenge the status the calls is to challenge the status quo of the church as well as the administration, and also of our own community leaders, our own status quo," Nixon said.

Abandoning the doctrinal blinders of growing up in a Baptist fundamentalist home in Salisabura Naw Hampshira Nixon bald.

bury, New Hampshire, Nixon held tight to her vital, personal experi-

ence of spirituality.

"I also didn't want to leave being in a spiritual community—that is a way to liberation," said Nixon, who went on to serve as a

six-year Colombia University campus minister, then wrote her doctoral dissertation on queer spirituality at San Anselmo's San Francisco Theological Seminary.

She finds the effort to avoid churchy language, which might alienate non-religious audiences, no problem.

"What's challenging is how people write you off before they hear you say anything," she said, admitting, "I understand if queer people are suspicious of religion."

Nixon strives to help marginalized, spiritually dormant gay people, defensive about Christianity, reconcile the "God of many names" with their queerness.

"Tired of church? So are we. That's why we reinvented it," she

That's why we reinvented it," she

MCC-SF

The 35-year-old Eureka Street MCC-SF's nine-member govern-ing board, which plans and man-

ages the finances, is currently searching for a new home in the greater Castro area, wanting to leave the out-used and outgrown,

limited space.

MCC-SF – one of 350 MCCs with 43,000 members in 30 counwith 43,000 members in 30 countries, and 48 states, founded a year before Stonewall – houses 12-step groups, and MCC-SF's social service arm, the Metropolitan Community Foundation, providing food and offsite showers to the hungry and homeless, and reading to Harvey Milk elementary school students. The foundation is currently searching for a new executive director, Nixon noted.

Nixon inted.

Nixon imagines in a larger space, the potential to expand educational programs, offering more comprehensive social services, to advocate for children, healthcare and PWAs worldwide, to "meet the basic needs of our city, really help people get off and stay off the streets," and a place uniting spirituality and politics for a "spiritual-progressive move-ment."

Her Web-based op-ed pieces and tourists visiting MCC-SF who

continue reading her Sunday messages online back home, e-mailing them to friends, have given-Nixon's sermons recognition far beyond the pews; they're read even by those behind bars.

"All over the world I get e-mails," said Nixon, who resides in the staid Inner Sunset District after sampling several of the city's neighborhoods.

"I work all day in a gay environment, so it's okay," she said.
Soon a broader audience might benefit from her always trenchant

benefit from her always trenchant and engaging popular and plural-istic sermons if a mainstream press agrees to publish them.

agrees to publish them.

"It's a goal. The board is pushing me. It's a matter of getting an editor, time, making it happen."

In the meantime, one congregation member collected and

bound his favorites in "Pennies from Heaven.

She optimistically notes world-wide progressive pockets of reli-gion increasingly coming together. "What is rising to the top, what

matters most is how we heal this world, to make sure every person matters and belongs."

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Gay vet

◄ page **58**

Maloney said it is imperative out-reach be done with straight veter-ans who could derail the push to overturn DADT.

"Veterans were instrumental in stopping Clinton from lifting the ban completely. We need their support if we are going to lift the policy," he said.

policy," he said.

In a column for Army Times this spring, U.S. Military Academy professor Lieutenant Colonel Allen Bishop urged Congress to repeal the ban. He told the AP that, "I thought I'd get lots of hate mail, and my colleagues would walk on the other side of the hall—but there's been none of that." but there's been none of that.'

but there's been none of that.

One stumbling block is the
United States Senate, where so far
SLDN and its supporters have
failed to find a Republican senator
to introduce the bill. While they
could get a Democrat to do it, Osburn said the bill would have a better chance of passage coming from the majority party. Moderates like Lincoln Chafee from Rhode Island, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins both from Maine, and Gordon Smith of Oregon are

the main focus of lobbying efforts.
"We need a Republican to introduce it," said Osburn. "John McCain still supports DADT, but we think he is someone who could change his mind."

Boeckels believes there is a good chance of seeing President Bush overturn DADT before he leaves office in 2008, though he concedes pressure to fill the military's ranks could likely "push his back against the wall to sign it. He won't be dong it with open arms"

He points to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a rising star in the Republican Party, signing into law last year a measure supportive of gays serving in the state's national guard as where public sentiment is headed.

"That is symbolic and a great in the state is headed.

"That is symbolic and a great step. I have a lot of friends from West Point who are Republicans but disagree with the policy," he said. "There is no question I will see it changed in my lifetime. I wouldn't be surprised if it gets changed in the Bush administra-tion. You have to sell it to fiscal conservatives and libertarian Republicans. It goes against their fis-

cal priorities."

While the policy is in effect,

Boeckels refuses to tell LGBT people they shouldn't join the armed forces.

"What I tell people now is if

"What I tell people now is it you are gay the military is a great service and a great experience. I am not going to tell them not to go. It's one policy and it is not enough for people to run away from their dreams," he said. "By telling them to run away you are setting them up for second guessing later on in life."

The last two years, he has

The last two years, he has served as a volunteer recruiter for his alma mater.

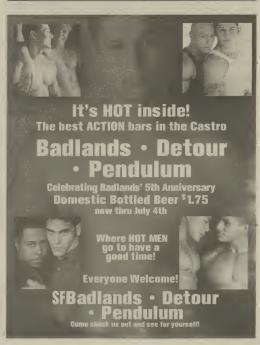
"Volunteering has enabled me to interact with military people again," he said. Out to the captain back in New

York who is in charge of the program, Boeckels has not disclosed the information to the people in the local office, nor does he discuss his

sexuality with perspective cadets.
"It is none of their business,"

If he had a chance to repeat his life, Boeckels said he would still enlist even if DADT remained in

"I would go back. What I learned there is very hard to learn anywhere else. I say follow your dreams," he said.



Jose Sarria's lifetime of achievement

by Tyson Gillfillan

hey are the forefathers and mothers, the giants upon whose shoulders the LGBT community stands – every time an openly gay person wins an election, or gets married in Massachusetts, or pickets for marriage in California, or even walks down the street holding their partner's

During San Francisco's LGBT During San Francisco's LGBT Pride celebration this year, one such leader will be honored as the lifetime achievement grand marshal for the parade, the Widow Norton, a.k.a. Empress Jose I, a.k.a. Jose Sarria. While not every member of the gay community may know of the recalcitrant Sarria, each benefits from his lifetime of activism and courage – a fact of activism and courage – a fact not lost upon the legend himself.

oot lost upon the legend himself.
"These young gays think their
gay freedom came down from
Jesus!" said Sarria. "Well, I've got
news for them – they have gay
rights today because their mother
Jose went to jail for sucking
cocks!" As all who know Sarria can
attest, this type of colorful commentary is expected from someone who insists he's never spent
one day of the past 82 years preone day of the past 82 years pre-tending to be someone he's not.

Sarria's story is closely tied to that of the gay rights movement. Immortalized for his outrageous performances at the Black Cat. a performances at the Black Cat, a popular venue in the North Beach neighborhood during its Bohemi-an days, Sarria made history as the first openly gay man to run for public office, and as the founder

of the Imperial Court System.
A San Francisco native who now lives in Palm Springs, Sarria spent his childhood bouncing among public, Catholic, and mil-



Emperor I Marcus and Empress I Jose, center, surrounded by 12 of the 30 emperors at the Council of Emperors 30th anniversary celebration in September 2002.

itary schools, dropping out or being expelled because of lan-guage barriers, gender segregation (Sarria wanted to play with the girls instead of the boys) and re-bellious attitudes. Foreshadowing bellious attitudes. Foreshadowing the future, his fondest memories involve elaborate coronation games he would host in his backyard. He always insisted on being "queen," and the neighborhood children would spend the morning building a carriage to pull around "Queen Jose."

In 1942 Sarria joined the Army, despite - or perhaps because of -

despite – or perhaps because of – his sexuality. Sarria's enlistment involved out-maneuvering the Army psychiatrist's schemes to weed out gay volunteers and shar-ing sexual favors with an Army re-

After World War II Sarria returned to San Francisco and eventually began waiting tables at the Black Cat. One Saturday night, the pianist struck up the opening chords of Bizet's *Carmen*. Sarria joined in, belting arias from the opera whose lyrics he spiced up with racy, gay-themed plot lines. The crowd went wild and the club's management decided to capitalize on Sarria's popularity by making his

drag performances a regular feature of the Sunday afternoon brunch.

Extremely popular, the show drew celebrities including actor Tab Hunter and Beat poet Allan Ginsberg, even the sheriff of London came to the performance during a police convention in the city. Sarria closed the show singing, "God Save Us Nelly Queens," which soon became his signature finale.

During Sarria's time at the Black Cat, America was experiencing a crackdown against ho-mosexual expression and gay bars like the Black Cat were regularly subjected to police extortion and surprise raids. Between songs Sarria spoke out about gay rights



Jose Sarria, a.k.a. the Widow Norton, led the procession to Woodlawn Cemetery earlier this year for the annual pilgrimage to the grave of Emperor Norton, and to view the headstone that's been made for Sarria

from his Sunday pulpit and in-

spired a generation of activists.

"Jose would make these political comments about our rights as homosexuals," said longtime gay rights activist George Mendenhall.

"[W]e were really not saying 'God Save Us Nelly Queens.' We were

saying 'We have our rights, too.''
To combat police harassment,
Sarria would interweave warnings sarria would interweave warnings into his act, alerting patrons when an undercover agent had been spotted among the crowd. When Sarria discovered that police were Sarria discovered that police were arresting drag queens because the law stated it was illegal to dress like someone of the opposite sex in order to deceive people, he defiantly distributed buttons among the community that read, "I'm a boy."

In 1961 Sarria took his message out of the bars and ran for a sest on

out of the bars and ran for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. "I was trying to prove that I had the right, being as notorious and gay the right, being as notorious and gay as I was, to run for public office? said Sarria. "People in those days didn't believe you had rights." Al-though he did not win, Sarria sur-prised supporters and detractors alike by garnering nearly 6,000 votes.

In 1962, Sarria helped other owners and employees of the city's gay bars to form the Tavern Guild to fight the city alcohol board's ef-forts to close them down. The or-ganization published a walletsized guide to educate bar patrons about their legal rights in the event of an arrest, and retained a lawyer and bail bondsmen for anyone arrested in or near a mem-

ber establishment.
With the Tavern Guild, Sarria organized San Francisco's first drag ball in 1964. He was crowned queen of the Beaux Arts Ball, but aspiring for greater, quickly decreed himself for greater, quickly decreed himself Empress. Leveraging his new title, Sarria established the Imperial Court System, a charitable organi-zation that has grown to 67 chap-ters, and raises tens of thousands of dollars for AIDS organizations and other charities worldwide. By the mid-1970s the Black Cat had been closed for a decade. San Francisco's gay community was growing at an exponential pace, and few outside of the Im-perial Court System knew of Sar-ria's accomplishments. To once again reinvent himself,

To once again reinvent himself, Sarria connected with the locally popular story of Joshua Norton – an eccentric character who lived in San Francisco during the Gold Rush and declared himself "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico." (Among Joshua Norton's famous royal decrees was the prohibition against calling his city "Frisco.") Declaring himself "Empress Jose I, the Widow Norton," Sarria began leading an annual processional to Norton's gravesite at Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma. The event, which annually takes place during the Imperial Coronation week-end, includes Sarria's signature fractured-torch songs, novelty acts, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, and a six-gun salute. Sarria said that many of the

problems that plagued the gay community in the beginning of the movement still persist to this day. "The biggest issue is unity, these queens couldn't come together back then, and they still can't today. There are too many

egos, always clashing and they can't get anything done."

His eyes sparkled, recognizing the irony of someone who declared himself Empress complain-ing about egos. But looking back at his remarkable life, and what he's done for the LGBT community everywhere, perhaps he was simply recognizing that he'd earned it. ▼







Bringing it on

Cheer San Francisco celebrates 25 years

wenty-five years ago, Guy Andrade, a cheerleading coach at Hayward High School, got together with five other gay men to start a small group of cheerleaders. Calling themselves the Hayward Raw Rahs, they debuted at the 1980 San Francisco Gay Pride Parade.
Since then, the cheerleading

group has grown by leaps, bounds, flips, and pyramids, be-coming the largest and most ac-complished GLBT-inclusive – but not exclusive – adult cheerleading squad in the world.

If not for their boundless ener-

If not for their boundless energy and enthusiasm, it might be easy to take such a group for granted. Cheer San Francisco has performed everywhere from all six Gay Games (San Francisco in 1982 and 1986, Vancouver, Canada in 1990, New York City in 1994, Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 1998, and most recently in Sydney Austral sterdam, The Netherlands in 1998, and most recently in Sydney, Australia in 2002) to the 2000 March on Washington; numerous Pride events in San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Cruz and elsewhere; and even Chinese New Year parades. It's always a pleasure to see people enlivened by their energetic choreography and athleticism.

As the Hayward Raw Rahs grew from 1980-1989, the squad saw themselves being taken a bit

saw themselves being taken a bit more seriously as they retained a sense of humor about their ef-

forts.

As membership and performance schedules expanded, they became the Bay Area Raw Rahs from 1990-1996, and then voted to become Cheer SF.

As part of the Jon Sims Center from 1993-2004, Cheer SF, along with the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, became part of the non-profit arts umbrella organization.

Last year, Cheer SF gained its own nonprofit status, becoming the Cheer for Life Foundation Inc. The band became a nonprofit about a year earlier.

about a year earlier.
Steve Burke, 47, a longtime Steve Burke, 47, a longtime member of the group since its early days, sees this change as part of the ongoing growth and expansion for Cheer SF. Along with performing, they've raised thousands of dollars at fundraisers, and performed around the world.

Burke said that becoming their

Burke said that becoming their own nonprofit "has helped us to

own nonprofit "has helped us to create our own destiny."

Over the years, other cheerleading groups have been started by gay men, including squads in Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, and New York. "Eighteen groups modeled themselves after us, and became nonprofits," said Burke. "We mentored them along the way."

profits," said Burke. "We mentored them along the way."

A former cheerleader at Cali-fornia State University, Sacramen-to, Burke also coached cheerlead-ing at Alhambra High School in Martinez. When he heard about the then-named Hayward Raw Rahs, Burke joined, and is now its most senior member

Burke said he's still amazed by how the squad has grown and what it is today, and admires, "those guys in the early days; for them to walk through clubs and get up on stages and have people fall in love with their perfor-mances; I'm proud of every year

of accomplishment."

A few of those accomplishments include performing at President Clinton's Inaugural Parade in 1997, and being invited to perform in Singapore. Having taken honors and trophies at numerous Pride marches and cheerleading camps, they have built a reputation that quite possibly may have surpassed

Part of the energy of Cheer SF is its continuing new team members. Annual tryouts and clinics test skills and bring new talent

each year.

But paired with the squad's illustrious past is a sense of loss for former Cheer SF members, some of them gay men who died of AIDS, something that Burke said can be difficult to convey to younger cheerleaders.

In addition, although the squad is LGBT-identified, its expansion includes straight women

pansion includes straight women and men. "It's a part of who we are," said Burke. "We're not exclu-sive, although it was in the past." Jennifer Olsen-Davis, a 21-

year-old San Francisco State University graduate, was recently

page **78** ▶



The Cheer SF pep squad celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The group has come a long way since its

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Gay dads

◄ page **42**

family court, and Judge Ina Gye-mani agreed, granting Bill legal guardianship in March 1988. About a year after that, Tim was able to secure a second-parent adoption.

Then the hard work began

Incidental activists

Men who carried a newborn baby in a snuggly in 1987 were in-

baoy in a stuggy in stantly suspect.

"Where's the mother?" strangers wanted to know.

"Aren't you afraid you're going to make your baby gay?" men in

the Castro asked. Some people ignore comments on the street, or are more content keeping secrets rather than rock-ing the boat. But being a parent, said the Mathesons, means sub-scribing to a high standard of

honesty.
"It forced us out of the closet," said Tim. "I don't know if we were prepared for it."
"Suddenly you are a role model to this other person," said Bill. "I had a choice to lie, and I couldn't."

The men remember incidents e a woman on an airplane remarking how sorry she felt for their child. Rather than sitting silently, they called across the aisle, "Excuse me ma'am, but we heard what you said, and there's no reason to feel sorry for this child. He's receiving lots of love."

receiving lots of love."

They also made a deliberate effort to be a constant presence in Zach's classrooms, becoming room parents and field trip supervisors so that other families would become familiar with them.
"We were very heavily in-

IAGIC THEATRE



The joys of parenthood: Bill Matheson holds infant son Zach as Tim looks on in this undated photo.

volved," said Tim. "We wanted the parents to know us and to know our family.

"Once you get to know some-one, it's very hard to discrimi-nate," said Bill. "I got involved with Zach's school life to make sure there was no discrimination. I didn't think that I would enjoy it

so much.

Sometimes they would speak at school seminars on issues related to diversity. Other times they had to confront the school ad-

ministration, when Zach's classmates were regularly using slurs like "faggot," for instance.

Their educational efforts extended into the gay community, tended into the gay community, and parenting communities as well, from speaking to prospective parents at seminars hosted by Lyon-Martin Women's Services, to challenging others to recognize the important role of fathers. Tim's own personal quest included scouring the children's section for storybooks that featured father

magictheatre.org

characters at all.

"It was such a hard hunt. There were books like the Berenstain Bears where the father was a goofball and didn't do anything right," said Tim, whose years of searching allowed him to amass a small collection which he gave to the gay dads who came after him.

All of this work, said the cou-

An of this work, said the cou-ple, was "entirely selfish."
"A couple of times people have really surprised me by telling me how we have inspired them," said

Tim. "I never thought about that as something I was doing." "It's all about us," said Bill. "The fact is, Bill and I haven't been activists," said Tim, rolling his eyes as he scolded himself for being a "typical gay man." Whether deliberately or not,

Whether deliberately or not, the men do realize the influence they have had upon their communities, both in LGBT and heterosexual circles, simply by being out as gay parents. Consider all the more conservative families they have had relationships with over have had relationships with over the years and multiply that by all the people that others then go on to educate, and "there's a revolu-tion going on, under the surface," said Bill. "I don't think many peo-ple fully understand the impact

Labor of love

There are many reasons LGBT people may consider having children and decide against it, from a desire for more free time to the fear of the country's conservative political climate that has threatened family stability.

For the Mathesons, all the obstacles have been worth it, they said.

"Bill and I feel incredibly fortunate to be parents. It makes you grow and challenges you in so many incredible ways," said Tim. For those who want to become

parents but are attached to the idea of having biological off-spring, the Mathesons continue to peak out about the benefits of adoption.

adoption.
"I don't see how I could love this child any more than I do," said Tim. "It's such a profound love."
"I bonded with him within five minutes," said Bill. "I always used to hear the phrase, 'I would die for you' and never really understood it until I become a present." it until I became a parent."

Which is not to say there

haven't been struggles.

Different parenting styles and

the typical stress of parenting in a relationship led the Mathesons to seek couples counseling to work through some issues. Yet through-

out the difficult times they were committed to never separating. Additionally, while the couple's adoption agreement outlined an uncle and aunt role for Zach's biological parents, that limitation seemed to challenge the birth mother on more than one occa

sion.

"She did have strong opinions on child rearing," said Bill. "But I wouldn't say it was tension filled. It was new for all of us."

Denying the biological parents a role in Zach's life was never an option, said the Mathesons who shudder at the stories of custody feater, where children pare used as fights where children are used as

Zach's biological parents were guests at his recent high school graduation. A card in the Math-esons' kitchen from the birth mother expresses her own sense of loss in addition to her thanks and

congratulations.

"We see them a few times a year," Zach told the Bay Area Reporter shortly before leaving for his summer in Europe. "We're not extremely close or anything but we're friendly."

Like many teenage boys, Zach Like many teenage boys, Zach likes to hang out with friends, skateboard, date girls, go to the gym, watch movies, and "do normal stuff," he said. He plays the piano. He is fluent in French. He plans to study international business at school ness at school.

Growing up, Zach did not real-ize the legal or political signifi-cance of his family, nor did he feel all that different from other kids.

"I was aware of the story but I don't think I was aware of how important it was," he said. "I mean it's not much different, really, than other familie." other families.

other families."
Until recently the Mathesons had shied from publicity, never wanting to jeopardize their legal standing or force their family members into the spotlight. A few years ago they allowed a French television station to document their store and the requires "" television station to document their story, and the crew was "just like, blown away by our family," said Zach. "Their energy was real-ly different from anything I'd ever seen before. I think I understood then what a big deal it was." Being relatively protected from the media means Zach has not had to answer predictable ques-tions about his own sexual orien-

"I haven't been asked that one," he said. "I don't think I'm gay. I think if it turns out that I am, I wouldn't have any problem com-ing out. I guess I feel like my par-

ing out. I guess I feel like my par-ents will accept me for whoever I am, and that's a good feeling." Although Zach is entering the next phase of his life, the Math-esons' role as parents hasn't stopped, they said, and more un-knowns are around the corner. Will Zach be more closeted about his family while attending college? If he wants to bring home a girl from a more conservative back-ground, will he feel ashamed of his situation?

It's not likely. The family re-

cently watched La Cage Aux Folles together, they said, and Zach found it "old fashioned" and "amusing" that gays would be required to hide that gays would be required to hide their sexual orientation. It's a sign that the younger generation, de-spite all the recent political rhetoric, will continue to move this country forward, they said. "There are ups and downs but our country will never be able to retreat," said Bill. "People who have been exposed to different things—like our son—will change

things – like our son – will change things forever." ▼



Peter Marks, Washington Post

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A Charity Event Benefiting the STOP AIDS PROJECT

Olivia Cruises

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my brain, but it's really stimulated at Glide. It's part of my life."

Mainly, the board devotes sig-

Mainly, the board devotes significant time to fundraising to help support Glide's myriad social service programs. The social services arm of the church provides programs serving people living with AIDS, those needing job retraining, those in recovery, and parents and teens, among others. "We're running a \$12 million organization with 200 employees. We serve 1.3 million meals a year," Errett said, referring to one of

Errett said, referring to one of Glide's signature programs, feeding those in need.

The Reverend Cecil Williams, 75, has semi-retired but is still ac-75, has semi-retried but it still actively involved in all aspects of the church he has been with for more than 40 years. His wife, Janice Mirikitani, 63, is the president ad executive director of the foundaexecutive director of the founda-tion. The Reverend Douglas Fitch handles day-to-day pastoral duties at the church. While much was made of Williams's forced retirement due to Methodist require-ments several years ago at age 70, Errett said, "He'll stay as long as he

"It's a very engaged board," Errett added.

Williams had nothing but praise for Errett's work on the

There is no doubt about it, she's been a great influence and has had a great impact and been a great leader," he said.

great leader," he said.

Among her accomplishments,
Williams cited her business acumen. "She turned the board
around. She looked at our portfolio seriously and she had much to
do with changes to the portfolio"
of the foundation's investments.
Glide is one of San Francisco's
largest snititual homes with

largest spiritual homes with 12,000 members, about 40 percent of whom are LGBT identified, Erof whom are LGBT identified, Er-rett said. While the church isn't predominately gay like Metropol-itan Community Churches, Glide has always had a civil rights component and ministered to the gay community.

"I feel I'm somebody who de-

"I teel I'm somebody who de-fines spirituality not solely by sex-ual preference," Errett said, "and frankly, I feel issues of people of color and all marginalized people are much more similar. Helping people of color is not that differ-ent from fichting for equal sights." ent from fighting for equal rights for people in the LGBT commu-

Errett said she was "disap-pointed" in last year's election, which saw many churches across the country engage in hate cam-paigns against the gay communi-

"That's the antithesis of Glide,"

she said.
Williams agreed: "I don't back down when it comes to how peo-ple are marginalized, people who hate others and denigrate others. I fight that viciously."

On the road to equality

On the board of HRC for the

Olivia founder Judy Dlugacz, left, and her partner, Rachel Wahba, who also helped co-found the company

past four years, Errett is one of three San Francisco residents on the body. It was Errett who brought Glide's Williams on to the HRC board in March; Scott Wiener, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, is the other local HRC board mem-

Errett was quick to note that the city's LGBT community has not always embraced the country's

largest national LGBT organiza-

tion.
"San Francisco has had an up "San Francisco has had an up and down relationship with HRC," she said. But she pointed out that although HRC got its start in the city, early leaders of the organization didn't always under-stand "how to be bridge builders." As HRC grew, it took on a na-

tional focus; its headquarters is in Washington, D.C.

washington, D.C.
"I was introduced to [former HRC director] Elizabeth Birch and we started a dialogue with San Francisco HRC [members]," Errett said, adding that she quickly saw what was wrong and right with the organization, and want-

ed to help change it.
"Scott and I represent the different viewpoint of San Francisco. There's a consciousness we have, playing a role at the federal level," said Errett. "I have enormous re-spect for the local work done here and I believe strongly in what the organization does – lobbying – at the federal level. I also think I've been a voice to say, 'here's the per-

eption of a problem, either get on with that or not

with that or not."

She also had praise for Joe Solmonese, who HRC just hired as its new president [see story, page 3].
"Joe gets it," Errett said, noting that he spent his first weeks on the job traveling to so-called red states to meet with LGBT residents and others.

"Amy brings tremendous strengths to HRC and to the local steering committee," said Wiener, who's known Errett since 2000 and is close friends with her and her partner, Clare Albanese. "She's a very strong leader and inspires loyalty. She works hard, is a great

loyalty. She works hard, is a great fundraiser, and brings strong organizational skills to bear."

It doesn't hurt, Wiener added, that Errett, through her work with Olivia, has strong connections with the women's community. While Solmonese is HRC's new leader the organization has long leader, the organization has long had women in leadership posi-tions, from former directors Birch tions, from former directors Birch's and Cheryl Jacques to Birch's partner Hilary Rosen and other senior executives, Wiener said. Errett said the addition of

williams to the board – a straight African American man – will help the organization as it attempts to move forward in the wake of last year's dismal election results that saw 11 states pass antigay mar-riage constitutional amendments.

For his part, Williams said the community needs to "organize,

organize, organize."
"It's critical that HRC become more assertive, more open, and more empowered," Williams

Williams said others on HRC's board have warmly received him. board have warmly received him.
"A lot of people have said to me,
'we're glad you're here, we know
you'll help us." And Williams said
those on the religious right are
fighting a losing battle.
"I'm convinced victory is on
our side and we will overcome," he
said. ▼

For information on Olivia, visit www.olivia.com; for Glide, visit www.glide.org; for HRC, visit www.hrc.org.



◄ page **75**

voted as the squad's new captain. Liz Breen was the first woman to join Cheer SF in 1997. Having more women with high

Having more women with high school and college experience "mellowed out the guys," Burke said, "and allowed us to expand the repertoire. Our skill level has just gone up and up," sometimes, literally, as more daring stunts like lifts and tosses provide crowdpleasing acrobatics.
"The whole sport has changed so much," said Burke, who said that in previous decades, there was more of a focus on floor work.
Today, more intricate lifts that

Today, more intricate lifts that used to be done on squad members' shoulders and hips are now done with hand raises, making for

a lesser degree of potential injury.
That physicality has increased as more intensely competitive cheerleading squads

But for Burke, a great part of being a cheerleader is supporting teams at athletic events. The squad has performed at numerous professional sports events at the Uni-versity of Southern California; the University of California, Los Angeles; the San Francisco Giants; and Warriors basketball games.

"A crowd's a crowd," said Burke. "They could care less about your sexuality." Burke, who also acknowledged the effect that Cheer SF has had, not only by its mainstream presence (the group is also included in a colorful coffee table photo book, Cheerleader: an

American Icon), but also by the squad's diversity.

While most college squads seem to focus on a certain look for its members, Cheer SF's ensemble remains more diverse than most. "The audience can find somebody

who looks like them," said Burke.
But if they want to learn how
to toss a friend up in the air, they'd better head to Emeryville for a team tryout.

team tryout.

This weekend Cheer SF will welcome cheerleading squads from Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and Edmonton, Alberting ta, for meetings and special events. Included in their busy schedule is a reception on Saturday June 25, a reception on Saturday June 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the GLBT His-torical Society to view the "Sport-ing Life" exhibit, which includes some historic Raw Rahs and Cheer SF items.

Look for more cheerleading ex-uberance at Pink Saturday in the Castro, at the Pride Parade on Sun-day, June 26, as well as two perforday, June 20, as well as two performances on stage. Cheer SF also will have a booth among the Sports Block at the festival on Sunday, where you can get more information about them and many other GLBT teams and clubs. ▼

For more info, visit www.cheersf.org



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A vibe the West gets from the East 'Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World' opens at the Asian Art Museum.

24 hours in Manhattan Five New Yorkers hit the 'Heights' in a new film.



Wrestling with angels Balladeer/rocker Mark Weigle puts out 'SoulSex.' page 94



ARTS& ENTERTAINMEN BAYAREA REPORTER

Mapa of the gay world



San Francisco Pride salutes out and proud actor Alec Mapa

by Adam Sandel

Celebrity Grand Marshal of San Francisco Pride 2005, along with *The L Word* creator Ilene Chaiken, is Alec Mapa. The Celebrity Grand Marshal of Los Angeles Pride 2005 was Paris

"We both like pink, I do say 'that's hot' a lot, and we're both on TV," says Mapa. But the similarities and there. If Paris Hilton has done anything to benefit the gay community, it has not yet been brought to our attention. But as the first out gay actor to portray a gay character on a sitcom (UPN's Half & Half), Alec Mapa recently received GLAAD's Davidson/Valentini Award, which honors an openly leshing age, bissyated or transpader individual.

an openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individual who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for the LGBT community.

Accepting the award, Mapa said, "When I was in high Accepting the award, Mapa said, "When I was in high school, I worked at a restaurant in Pacific Heights, and the staff who worked in this restaurant was gay — and not just gay, but gay. They gave me the courage to be the person that I am. And I thought it would be unacceptable for me to be in the closet professionally when I'd benefited so much from these men. So when you honor me tonight, you honor every single out, proud, gay and lesbian person I've ever known." While many gay and lesbian actors are notoriously fearful of the impact that coming out might have on their careers, living in the closet was never much of an option for the Filipino actor. "I decided a long time ago, so what, I'm not gonna read for all those great straight Asian roles they're

not gonna read for all those great straight Asian roles they're writing? Besides, I'm a big fag, so when I try to play it

page 94 ▶



Peter, an extremely private gentleman.

Hiding sight

Frameline29 features from final four days

by David Lamble

hat Man: Peter Berlin Finally, a film that celebrates men ob-sessing about a man. Typically, even this entertaining salute to a male icon first invokes a female metaphor. icon first invokes a female metaphor. Peter Berlin, a name every gay man of a certain age knows even if he can't remember why, was an incendiary sex star whose cinematic reputation rests on two 16mm classics, Nights in Black Leather and That Boy. Known as the Greta Garbo of Porn, Peter Berlin is perhaps also the proximate inventor of the sexy white-boy philosophy of stand and pose. "Foreplay starts the second you lay eyes on someone. You're better off shutting your mouth and observing from a distance. If one gets too close and talks, everything can be destroyed."

gets too close and talks, everything can be destroyed."
It's a tribute to filmmaker Jim Tushinski that his Garbo does speak. Visiting the now-60-something gentleman in his overstuffed apartment near the Castro, Tushinski keeps his camera rolling as his extremely private host recounts his life as a young German man from a aristocratic family ruined by the war, his fabulous enounters with a now-vanished erotic

page 98 ▶

Let's all go back in the closet!

A modest Pride proposal from your gay uncle Out There

by Roberto Friedman

ut There keeps hearing about this spooky thing called the "Gay Agenda," which right-wing groups seem to think threatens their dreary mar-riages. OT is not sure just whom need to blow in order to enter we need to blow in order to enter an item on said agenda — and we work for the gay press! We tried looking it up under "Agenda, Homosexual" in Robert's Rules of Order, but to no avail.

So we'll scribble our gay agenda item down here, our patented game plan for how to finish off the Kulture wars. Let's just say to the lunatic Right: OK, you win. We'll all go back in the closet now, every last lesbian of us. We'll never men tion the word gay to you again. We won't ask, we won't tell. We'll just

go underground. You'll have to be in the know to be gay, and we won't share our secrets. Gay bars will revert to speakeasies in private base ments, and you'll need a nelly password to get in Your gay doctor, your gay teacher, your gay son will never come out to you. You win.

But at home, when the lights are out, we'll practice our and the leathers, the handcuffs and the Martha Stewart

cookbooks. We'll spin our Judy Garland and Kylie Minogue discs on low volume, so the neighbors won't hear. But the gay underworld will be connected via back-line channels. The more daring among

us will print contraband leaflets, which we'll run off on ancient mimeograph machines, celebrating our deviant behavior. We'll accept our verboten GLAAD awards incognito.

We'll wait genera-tions for your weird, moralist mutation, your compulsion to put natural sexual expression on trial, to die out. Meanwhile we'll germinate, like a dormant seed, among your progeny. Then, like

Out There a queer phoenix, we to make fun of your tacky wardrobe! We'll have the last gay laugh, and it will be a snarky one.

Back pedal

Of course, we were only kidding about that back-to-the-closet stuff. We sure don't want GLAAD bearing down on our sorry ass! Besides, we're so out we're in Anyway, in the interests of welcoming out and proud LGBT visitors to our fair city this week, we thought we'd take a few column inches and translate some items from the mainstream, "straight" media into the lingo of our little, inbred gay world. You know, sort of homo immersion therapy.

• For instance, in its obituary for architect Philip Johnson's long-time companion David Whitney last week, *The New York Times* observed that Whitney "studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design, and in 1960, walked over to Brown University to

got access to PJ's rarefied circles, status, position in the art-world. In other words, quite a bigger piece of buttered bun. That's it in 50 words.

• Ejemplo numero dos comes from a NYT style-section feature entitled, "Locker Room Trysts Bedevil Health Clubs." "Not all gymgoers are blasé when they stumble upon locker groom capacodling." upon locker-room canoodling. 'They're infringing on my right to work out at the gym without hav-ing to deal with that nonsense, said Cyd Zeigler, Jr., a member of David Barton Gym and a co-

founder of Outsports.com, an on-line magazine for gay sports fans and athletes. 'I don't get the full benefit of my membership." OT's 10-word translation of Zeigler-speak: "No one ever hits on me in the steam room!"



Eric McCormack as Tom Jones

· In Touch magazine blurb accompanying this photo of Will & Grave star Eric McCormack dressed up as swinger **Tom Jones**:
"At one point, Eric reached into his trousers and pulled out a pair of underwear, throwing them into the crowd in an homage to the sexy Vegas crooner!

OT's take: From careful examination of the photo, it seems Mr. McCormack has a lot more than mere undies to pull out of his leather pants. But a phallic expert of our long acquaintance assures us that, in this case, there's less than meets the eye. "It's probably a dildo," he says knowingly of the visible outline of a sizable mem-

ber. Fine, destroy our illusions.
• This Cargo magazine photo of a scorching-hot "fireman" modeling "fireproof underwear" is described thus: "The boxer-briefs, made from a combination of ton and a flame-resistant fiber called modacrylic, feel like a sturdier version of your everyday drawers. The difference is, should you find yourself battling blazes,



Fireman modeling fireproof undies.

these Skivvies will cover your ass and protect your package

and protect your package."
Erm, but the only flamers that
most Cargo readers know are the
tricks they've picked up while
shopping for terra cotta planters at
Crate & Barrel. But OT, like Cargo,
will use any excuse to run a juicy
photo of a fireman's puss in boots.

For florid flogging of boldface name-dropping, search elsewhere dear reader. But it isn't as if OT is staying home at nights reading our press clips. No, we're Out There cavorting with the creators and the credentialed at peoplicious parties! Directors **Olivier Ducastel** and **Jacques Marineau** were in the house last week for the Castro Thenouse last week for the Castro Ine-atre screening of their silly, funny sex-farce Cote d'Azur, opening-night fare for Frameline29. The fest's afterparty at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts brought out fans and filmmakers, including local toasts of the town Jenni Olson and Karen **Everett.** We were pleased to meet up with our pal **Captain Heidi**, a lesbian pilot for United Airlines, one of the *Plane Girls* profiled in **Anne** Marie Luger and Moira Dawson's documentary about women aviators, part of the film fest's We Care Do It! program. Her lesbian lover Leslie's mind boggles that Heidi can steer an airliner, but still can't program their VCR.

We partied perfervidly. Did our convivial consort **Pepi** seek out and find the sushi supply, then apply himself assiduously to it? He did. Did Out There get home safe and sound after an extended period making merry on the patio? We always do.

The bleat goes on

• We don't understand what all the fuss is about the bestiality in Ed Albee's The Goat, or Who is Sylvia? OT has had a longtime consensual relationship with a goat, who resides in Short Moun-tain, Tennessee, and likes sunsets, tain, tennessee, and likes sunsets, long hikes, and tucking into wet cardboard. When OT gazes into Billy's rectangular pupils, we know it's the real animal thing.

Too bad he's just not that into us.
• Welcome back, sailor! Bari tone Nathan Gunn, who last ap tone Natnan tulin, who last appeared with San Francisco Opera in the title role of SFO's fabulous production of Britten's Billy Budd earlier this season, returns to the War Memorial stage this week to play Guglielmo in the Mozart favorite Cosi fan tutte. O'T still has food memorials of Cuns energies. fond memories of Gunn sporting some nautical pants as Billy, and not much else. Cosi runs June 24-July 10; SF Opera box-office phone is (415) 864-3330. ▼









Come visit the NCTC booth on Saturday & Sunday in the Civic Center for free give-aways and a chance to win a season subscription. Come meet the designers of Whoop-Dee-Doo! on Sunday, July 3 after the 2 pm matinee.



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Beastly behavior

Albee's 'The Goat' butts heads for ACT

by Richard Dodds

eeing The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia? at an early preview in New York was a bit like sitting with the audience in The Producers watching "Springtime for Hitler" with mouths agape. Laughter, when it came, was nervous, and the applause at the end felt guarded.

wous, and the appiause at the end felt guarded.

When the subject matter of Edward Albee's 2002 Broadway play became widely known, and critics generally found the work to be praiseworthy, audience reactions changed.

be prasewortny, audience reactions changed.

There was certainly a big difference between that Broadway preview and the opening of ACT's often-gripping production, where knowing laughs started before the official revelation, and continued without timidity — except for those moments when the tragedy at hand actually triumphs over the characters' love of wordplay. "Very good, by he way," genuinely compliments the husband when the wife slips a clever reference to Shakespeare into an excoriating attack.

Later, when he criticizes one of her turns of phrase, she shoots back, "Women in deep woe often mix their metaphors." The husband's crime? A literal crime against nature, if you ascribe to the widely shared belief that interspecies sexual relationships are unnatural.

But the rub is that this loving husband and father can't see the crime in sharing his love with a goat he has named Sylvia, and who he is convinced shares in his physical and spiritual passion. He tells his wife without guilt that the consummation of his and Sylvia's love was "as intense as the first night we both came at the same time." Turns out it's not the kind of thing a wife wants to hear, and her reactions are violent enough that protective eyewear might be advisable for those in the front rows.

for those in the front rows.

Albee, always known for pressing buttons, is examining the limits of tolerance when those limits



Don R. McManus as goat-lover Martin, Pamela Reed as his wife in Goat.

must be stretched into heretofore unimagined shapes. For the theme to resonate, the play must create at least some sympathy for all affected parties. There is a significant failure in this regard, but where it most matters, Albee delivers.

Then law tarts endeaved by with

The play starts awkwardly with fairly dumb banter between successful architect Martin and his hip and stylish wife Stevie, and the awkwardness continues with the arrival of an implausible TV journalist who is interviewing Martin on the occasion of his 50th birthday. That journalist is also Martin's oldest friend, but the role is more of a plot device than a genuine characterization, and his actions and reactions ring false throughout the play. Charles Shaw Robinson's surfacey performance only adds to the problem

throughout the play. Charles shaw Robinson's surfacey performance only adds to the problem. Except for this misstep, the performances range from good to exceptional. As Martin, Don R. McManus is perhaps more clownish than he should be in the early scenes, but as passions heat, he finds a groove for this character who knows he should be tormented but can't quite muster the proper angst. Pamela Reed is riveting as his wife, the character with the most at stake, and the actress slices like a razor into the emotional thicket. Joseph Parks provides a reasonable performance as Martin and Stevie's gay son, whose anger at his father's animal interests turns provocatively intimate.

tively intimate.
Richard E.T. White's direction
mirrors the Broadway production
in many ways, including its effective evocation of human worlds
colliding. The devastation is
strangely compelling.

The Goat will run at the Geary Theater through July 10. Tickets are \$15-\$68. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.



Ruby's Clay Studio Celebrates Pride 2005 Ruby's invites you to visit the Gallery and Studio for a special Cay Pride Exhibit June 15 to July 5



Back in town and ready to deal

Colman Domingo's 'A Boy and His Soul' makes offer

by Richard Dodds

ere's a deal that's hard to beat. Thick Description will pay you \$1 to attend one of the previews (June 29 and 30) of Colman Domin

go's A Boy and His Soul, opening officially on July 1 when regular ticket prices go into ef-

fect.

Domingo, who left
SF several years ago for
career purposes, is back among us — at least from time to time.

He was recently part of the ensemble cast of *The People's Temple* at the Berkeley Rep, and he will be front and center when his first solo show has its world premiere at the Thick House.

The actor made his playwriting debut at Theatre Rhino in 1998 with *Up Jumped Springtime*, a theatrical collage about the gay

black community. He is exploring his own childhood in *A Boy and His Soul*.

Domingo grew up in Philadel-phia in the 1970s in a household where conflict and affection were both present, and where classic

sent, and where classic soul music provided a shared joy. Soul helps propel this one-man musical. In 1997, he played a lip-synching Jackie Wilson imper-sonator in Thick De-scription's Blade to the Heart, and that role

helped plant some of the seeds that grew into A Boy and His Soul.

Domingo developed the show in readings at a New York bar where he worked as a bartender, when he wasn't working on stage and screen as an actor. He recently acted in the upcoming movie *Freedomland*, starring Julianne Moore and Samuel L. Jackson.

A Boy and His Soul will run at

Thick House through July 31. For more info, call 401-8081 or go to thickdescription.org.

Gotta sing...

... and act and write. New Conservatory Theatre Center has a trio of summer classes for adults with a yen for getting into the theatrical action. Or "discovering your inner star," as NCTC

Dyan McBride, whose numerous NCTC directing credits include Pageant, will lead a sixweek scene-study class commencing July 11. Meeting on Monday evenings, the sessions

Monday evenings, the sessions will include improvisation and scripted work "in a trusting environment." The fee is \$200.

"A wild, fun romp" is promised for a singing class that begins its six-week run on July 12. SF musical institution (and former Cockette) Scrumbly Koldewyn will focus on familiar songs from cabaret and musical theater. The Tuesday-night sessions will alternate between solo

and group work. The fee is \$200.
Local playwrights Garret Jon
Groenveld and Tom W. Kelly are
conducting an eight-week queer playwriting workshop beginning July 12. The Tuesday-night classes are designed to provide queer writers with a comfortable space to work on scenes, one-acts,

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Domingo in The People's Temple



The cast of Watch Me Shine revisits key moments of lesbian/gay history.

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LGBT follies

'Watch Me Shine' gay revue

by Richard Dodds

ight now, Watch Me Shine is a cabaret show aching for a larger venue. But its current short run at Michael's Octavia Lounge is obviously designed as a stepping-stone showcase aimed at bigger stages. With some adjust-ments and trims, this musical revue of gay and lesbian history could become a popular recurring

attraction.

Through 22 songs performed by a six-member cast, lyricist Adam Sandel and composer Richard Link visit key moments Richard Link visit key moments and attitudes extending back through the 20th century, but mostly focusing on post-Stonewall history. The songs are at their best when they are at their most specif-ic, and the show lags during gener-ic ballads that could be plopped

ic ballads that could be plopped into just about any situation.

One of the best in the former category is titled "Sextet," and it provides gently satirical voice to each of the subsets in LGBTQQ. And in "I Wonder if I'm Really Gaw" a young man who deep." Gay," a young man who doesn't love Judy Garland and can't choose fabric sings about not quite fitting in. Sandel's lyrics find their strongest invention in the "list" songs that open and close the show, working together names from the past and present of those with various degrees of gay glim-

merings.
Sandel also provided the spo ken text for Watch Me Shine, and this is where the show is most in need of rethinking. Dry historical recitations, AIDS statistics, and clichéd inspirational phrases are unnecessary, and much of the information would be better if indi

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French frolics and Russian rogues

San Francisco Opera presents 'Pearl Fishers' and 'Queen of Spades'

by Stephanie von Buchau

ntil now, San Francisco Opera has never performed Bizet's first important work, The Pearl Fishers. Its typical 19th-century French mixture of sex, religion and simple syrup (one part sugar to one part water) has made it long unacceptable in temples of music drama. It is therefore mind-boggling that Pamela Rosenberg, who stands for everything noble, severe and artistic in operatic art, would give the work at all, never mind in such a colorful and sucmind in such a colorful and suc-cessful production, with an excel-lent new conductor (Sebastian Lang-Lessing, making his SFO debut) and a pair of leads as good as you could find anywhere today. In addition, I would suggest this is the "gayest" opera produc-tion we've seen since Terry McEwen dressed Herod's guards in Mylar thongs. Hippie designer

In Mylar thongs. Hippie designer Zandra Rhodes, with her pink hair (it used to be green), was in attendance at the opening. Her sun-splashed sets and costumes, with dirty little pictures scribbled on them, were a constant delight. However, Norah Amsellem, the superb lyric-coloratura Leila, need not have been clad in Britney Spears-pink pajama bottoms and bare midriff; even a comely opera singer has to breathe, and, to quote *Auntie Mame*'s Vera, "It was not a pretty sight."

Otherwise, I loved it. Half-

naked male dancers were well-in-Castronovo, a tenor hunk whose bare chest caused palpitations in my section, sounded as if he were channeling the late Alfredo Kraus in Nadir's gorgeous "Je crois entendre encore," one of the two tendre encore," one of the two pieces that keeps this opera afloat. The other is the great tenor-baritone duet "Au fond du temple saint," in which Castronovo joined William Dazeley (an adequate but underpowered Zurga), his best friend and rival in love. Both numbers are in the first act, which means you could probably leave then, for Bizet merely recycles them for the rest of the opera. Yet there is also a walloping storm there is also a walloping storm scene and two sexy duets — one for each rival lover with the supposedly chaste Leila.

Grand 'Dama'

A day after this totally bright, engaging performance — or as James Jorden of parterre box used to say, "Opera when it was queer, exciting and dangerous" — I heard the new production of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*, which had its high points but also too many of those Eurosludge moments with which we have become Ill too familiar. Richard Jones and John Macfarlane, responsible for the grisly 2002 Hansel and Gretel, apparently see Pikovaya Dama (not Pique Dame, which is bad French) unrelentingly gloomy, surreal and dark



The giant portrait of the young Countess, in a scene from Queen of Spades.

Some of their ideas, especially in moving the chorus, were terrifin moving the chorus, were terrifically engaging. But so much of the staging was dark and spooky precisely when Tchaikovsky asks for something else. The Mozartian pastoral is supposed to lighten the mood. A creepy puppet show adds nothing unless you like puppets (I don't.) Gherman's nightmare, in which the old Countess tells him the secret of winning at cards, has some of the opera's most at-mospheric music, but you could-n't hear it because the producers had a giant skeleton climb in bed with Gherman (tireless Ukrainian tenor Misha Didyk), and the au-

dience laughed its head off.
One of the points of this opera is the extreme class barrier between Gherman and his beloved Lisa, granddaughter of the old Countess. When the work is done in modern dress and the Countess' home has water stains, ex-posed radiators and torn wallpaposed radiators and torn wanpa-per, there is no class difference. These things are annoying be-cause so much of the production is effective; why can't they get it all right? The giant portrait of the beautiful young Countess, known as the "Venus of Moscow," morphing into the old hag she has become is a sensational idea, as is Gherman's night terror (until the skeleton shows up), which displays him in bed from above. The feverish gambling scene caused our blood to pound, but Lisa (pallid Swedish soprano Katarina Dalayman) committed suicide by putting a mundane plastic bag over her head rather than jumping off the Neva Prospekt, which the music clearly tells you she is supposed to be doing.

I don't like invidious comparisons, but the last Queen of Spades

I don't like invidious comparisons, but the last Queen of Spades I heard was in Los Angeles the night before 9/11. Musically it was better, with Valery Gergiev's passionate reading more tender, sympathetic and idiomatic than Donald Runnicles' muscular one for SFO. Our orchestra, especially in those haunting woodwind solos, was superior, but the conductor's rhythmic inflexibility kept the music from tearing at the heart. rhythmic inflexibility kept the music from tearing at the heart. The staging often followed a similar, detached route, as if the artists didn't care to engage our feelings. The show was so busy being "psychological," it didn't have room to be human, a common failure of

the Rosenberg regime.

The absolute nadir was reached when the old Countess was forced to die sitting in a hip bath facing upstage so that we couldn't see her face. What an insult to Hanna Schwarz. She's one of the healthiest singers I've ever heard in this role, often reserved for ladies circling the drain, but who knows how or when she died? ▼

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Her place in the sun

Gay-themed Liz Taylor films play Castro

by Tavo Amador

hile shooting A Place in the Sun (51), 18-year-old Elizabeth Taylor (b.1932) fell in love with leading man Montgomery Clift, only to learn he was gay. She adjusted her expectations while caring deeply for him. Her closest friend was the gay Roddy McDowell, her childhood co-star. She became the bisexual James Dean's confidante and Rock Hudson's friend. His death from AIDS prompted her courageous advocacy for those afflicted with the disease. She has raised huge sums for research to find a cure, and single-handedly made fighting AIDS respectable. So it's not surprising that she starred in movies about homosexuality long before it was commonplace. Three of her groundbreaking films are playing the Castro Theatre June 27-28.

Reflections in a Golden Eye ('67) casts Taylor as Leonora Penderton, a shrewd, ignorant, carnal army brat and military wife. She and her sexually indifferent husband, Major Weldon Penderton (Marlon Brando), live on a Georgia army base. They socialize with her lover, Lt. Col. Morris Langdon (Brian Keith), and his neurotic, refined wife, Alison (Julie Harris). Alison, devastated by the death of her infant daughter, escapes into an artistic world with her flamboyant houseboy, Anacleto (Zorro



Elizabeth Taylor starred in movies about homosexuality before it was common.

David). Weldon is obsessed with young Private Williams (a very hot Robert Forster), who grooms Lenora's horse and goes riding naked. "Bareback and bare-assed," says an appreciative Leonora.

says an appreciative Leonora.

As Weldon confronts his repressed homosexuality, Private Williams grows fixated on Leonora, with tragic results. John Huston directed this moody, powerful version of Carson McCullers' novel, which Aldo Tonti photographed in exquisite sepia tones. Taylor, first-billed, is excellent, conveying sadistic contempt for Weldon, impatient sympathy for Alison, and lust for Morris. She also utters one of the most shocking lines in history — the audience will know it when they hear it. Brando, in a role originally planned for Clift, who died before shooting began, is touching, idealizing the homoerotic, masculine military world. He movingly conveys a middle-aged man's fussy vanity. It's a daring performance. He probably modeled his accent on Tennessee Williams'. Keith effectively shows kindness to Alison and happiness with Leonora. As Alison, Harris is haunting, clinging to her chaste relationship with the adoring Anacleto. Forster is sexy and enigmatic. The movie received mixed notices and wasn't the expected hit, the first time in many years that Taylor couldn't carry a major movie to box-office

success.

Eye runs with X, Y, and Zee
('72). Taylor and Michael Caine
play Zee and Robert Blakely, a
freewheeling couple who quarrel
savagely while enjoying the high
life of swinging '70s London.
When he falls in love with a beautiful widow, Stella (a fine Susannah York), Zee is devastated. But
she plots to win Robert back — by
bedding Stella! The zaftig Taylor is
attractive, despite the dated
wardrobe. She gives a bawdy,
bravura performance. Caine is too
flabby and slimy to be convincing
as a man these women would
want. The ending is ambiguous,
although it would have been
splendid if Zee and Stella dumped
Robert for each other. The great
Margaret Leighton, in a fright wig
and awful clothes, is amusing as a

society doyenne. Based on an original screenplay by Edna O'Brien. Directed by Brian Hutton. (Monday, June 27)

Suddenly, Liz

In Suddenly, Last Summer ('59), Violet Venable (Katharine Hepburn) wants her niece Catherine Holly (Taylor) lobotomized because she is "babbling" and lying about her dead son, Sebastian. Catherine claims that she and Violet served as bait to introduce Sebastian to attractive young men, with tragic consequences. Violet offers psychiatrist Montgomery Clift a generous financial donation to fund his "pioneering" work — if he performs the surgery on Catherine. Before agreeing to anything, however, he wants to learn the truth. Set in New Orleans in the '30s. Screenplay by Gore Vidal and Tennessee Williams, based on the latter's one-act play. Taylor, top-billed and featured in advertisements wearing a provocative bathing suit, carried the film to tremendous box-office success. Hepburn's entrance is among the greatest in film history. Both stars give remarkable performances, relishing Williams' sensational dialogue. Each earned Oscar nominations, losing to Simone Signoret in Room at the Top. With Mercedes McCaimbridge as Catherine's fatuous, conflicted mother. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz

Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

Summer is paired with Butter-field 8 (*60), starring Taylor as Gloria Wandrous, the self-described 'slut of all time,' for which she won her first Best Actress Oscar. The wooden Laurence Harvey is the married man Gloria falls in love with. Taylor's then-husband, singer Eddie Fisher, plays her best friend, but can't be said to give a performance. With Mildred Dunnock as Gloria's mother, Betty Field as a caustic neighbor, and Dina Merrill as Harvey's stoic wife. Terrific Manhattan locations. Taylor's rapturous beauty and mesmerizing presence hold the audience's attention. Helen Rose designed her gorgeous wardrobe. Directed by Daniel Mann from John O'Hara's novel. (Tuesday, June 28) ▼





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Up to their eyeballs

Merchant Ivory hits with 'Heights'

by Robert Julian

he late Ismail Merchant's final film, The White Countess, is still in post-production, but his penultimate effort, Heights, opens tomorrow, and it's a fitting postscript to Merchant's long career as a film producer and director, Produced by Merchant and Richard Hawley and directed by Chris Terrio, Heights is one of those little New York films populated by intelligent people with great ambitions who do stupid things on a regular basis. In this case, we follow the lives of five Manhattanites over a 24-hour period as they go about messing up their lives and the lives of those they profess to love. Although the pleasure one derives from Heights may skirt dangerously close to Schadenfreude, the film is a delight.

Glenn Close is type-cast as Diana, an Oscar-winning actress



Up on the roof: Matt Davis as Mark, part of the ensemble cast of Heights.

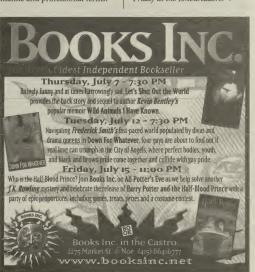
mounting an off-Broadway production of Macbeth. Her daughter Isabel (Elizabeth Banks) is a struggling photographer about to be married to the handsome Jonathan (James Marsden), a New York attorney. Isabel's neighbor Alec (Jesse Bradford) is an actor/waiter who auditions for Diana and gets invited into her life. Meanwhile, Peter (John Light) is a journalist hired by Vanity Fair to profile his boyfriend, a notoriously promiscuous gay photographer, by interviewing the man's former lovers and models. As the plot moves forward, the connection between these loosely related protagonists deepens.

protagonists deepens.
Writer Amy Fox adapts her
play (also entitled Heights) for the
screen in a thoroughly engaging
fashion. Fox avoids the histrionic
pitfalls of Paul Haggis' latest film
Crash, where he attempted to
weave together the lives of several
unrelated Los Angelinos. Haggis'
writing and directing was hamfisted and overblown, but Fox employs a more restrained style to
create a seamless and believable
tapestry of intersecting lives. She
holds back on big emotions and
rhetoric, allowing dramatic confrontations to arise naturally from
the context she creates. The title of
the film reflects the many scenes
that take place in high-rise buildings or on Manhattan rooftops.
But it also serves as a metaphor
for the ambitions and desires of
the main characters, in both romantic and professional terms.

Sexual expression may be seen as the dominant theme of Heights. So-called "open" relationships falter, closeted homosexuals are forced to confront their desires, and sexual betrayals litter the landscape of Manhattan. Director Terrio draws good performances from his ensemble cast. Beside the lead actors, George Segal does a wonderfully funny turn as a rabbi, and Eric Bogosian provides a nicely contained cameo as Diana's director and confidant. Glenn Close is, per usual, intelligent, despite the fact that her Diana resembles a maleto-female transsexual. As Diana's daughter Isabel, Elizabeth Banks makes the most of a role that requires more reaction than action. And the handsome male leads (Marsden, Bradford, and Light) raise the eye-candy quotient while they successfully smolder with their own conflicting emotions and desires.

and desires. Where there are peaks, there are valleys. As the characters of Heights discover their reach may have exceeded their grasp, introspection and soul-searching force them to re-evaluate their aspirations. In an era of mindless cinematic twaddle, it's a relief to experience a film like Heights. But it arrives with a tinge of sadness when the viewer is forced to acknowledge that it takes a track record like Ismail Merchant's to get a film like this produced — and that his industry clout died with him. Opens Friday at the Embarcadero.





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Higher realms

Tibetan art comes to SF's Asian Art Museum

by Michael McDonagh

e hear a lot about religion these days. Faithbased initiatives, the Christian right, and of course, radical Islam in the house of Saud. Fatwas, mullahs, Koranic desecration, the settler movement in Ic. tion, the settler movement in Israel facing off against its architect Sharon, and from the White House the infrequent but deadly use of the word "crusade." We hear use of the word "crusade." We hear about fundamentalism in all its stripes, Samuel Huntington's all-too-famous buzzwords "the clash of civilizations," or Karen Armstrong's wonderfully weighted phrase, "the battle for God." How did we get here, and is there no way out?

Some despair, while most are

way out?

Some despair, while most are blissfully clueless. Simply put, we're here because the Judeo-Christian tradition wallows in guilt and suffering, and seems to take pleasure in war. But there are other traditions which can be far more useful, like Buddhism, which takes a long view of human behavior and the human mind. which takes a long view of human behavior and the human mind. It's made significant inroads into our me-enslaved society. The Asian's seductive new Tibet show gives off that quiescent vibe which we in the West associate with things Eastern. That's pretty amazing when you consider that Tibet was ruled for centuries by warring kings who were probably just as self-serving as the people running the show here. But then Tibetans did something we may never do: they decided to pursue enlightenment as a daily practice, with compassion as the key. Can religion be put to good purposes, even noble ends? The evidence here suggests a resounding yes.

The 200 or so objects in the show, which was organized by Santa Ana's Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, are drawn from the Bureau of Cultural Relics, Tibet Autonomous Region; The Tibet Museum; and the country's two most important palaces of the Dalai Lamas, the Potala and the Norbulingka, Lhasa. Though a cynic could see the exhibition as a

Norbulingka, Lhasa. Though a cynic could see the exhibition as a fancy pr stunt or expiation by the People's Republic for the ravages



Unidentified four-armed goddess in gilded copper, from 1300-1500.

Tibet has suffered under their rule — 1,200,000 Tibetans died in a popular uprising between 1959 (when the 14th Dalai Lama fled to India) and '69—it's better to take it at face value.

You don't need a graduate de-gree in Buddhist cosmology to get it. Why? Because like any good art, these pieces charm with their own intrinsic merits. There are lots of intrinsic merits. There are lots of paintings done on cotton called thangkas which serve as objects for meditation, and there's one particularly stunning Kalachakra mandala which is a floor plan of the universe with deeply esoteric meanings. Several mandalas here are three-dimensional: one made largely of coral, and one of gold. Other ritual objects here include prayer wheels, with their thousands of prayers for merit hidden inside; stupas, vertical pieces which bestow Shakyamuni Buddha's blessings and power to the practitioner; and gold bells

adorned with the *vajra* thunder-bolt motif. There's also an amaz-ing set of painted wood daggers, each topped with totemic heads, called *purba*, which are used to dispatch the enemies of enlightenment.

Music and dance figure promi-nently in Tibetan Buddhist ritual, and it's nice to see a beautiful array of conch-shell trumpets, array of conch-shell trumpets, long horns, and oboes, as well as dance costumes and a knockout 19th-century silk robe worn by the Dalai Lama. Demons are part of one's psychic life, and a big deal in Buddhism, too. They symbolize afflictive emotional states which bar one from enlightenment, and the anonymous artists who pro-

duced these representations have a field day with their grotesquerie. The Judeo-Christian tradition tends to look at life and con-sciousness as a static thing. Bud-

dhism, like Islam, sees it as some thing deeply impermanent — we won't be here forever — which changes according to our moment-to-moment awareness, or lack thereof. This is a far more realistic and practical way of looking at the world. We in the West don't let go easily, but in the East the impermanence of all things is seen as a virtue which can bestow wisdom and knowledge, and dis-pel ignorance, and it's all over this current exhibition

The current Dalai Lama could The current Dalai Lama could hate the Chinese for the rape and pillage of his country, but he doesn't, and that's a superlative lesson for us all. This show, which comes hard on the heels of the Asian's very successful *The Kingdom of Siam*, could easily be just as popular, and its ancillary events, like two Philip Glass-scored films on the Dalai Lama, and a monk-created mendala natificial patients. ated mandala painting which will be destroyed at the end, are sure to draw the interested.

The paint painting and a monk creating at the monk of the painting which will be destroyed at the end, are sure to draw the interested.

Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World runs through Sept. 11 at the Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St, SF. Info at (415) 581-3500.





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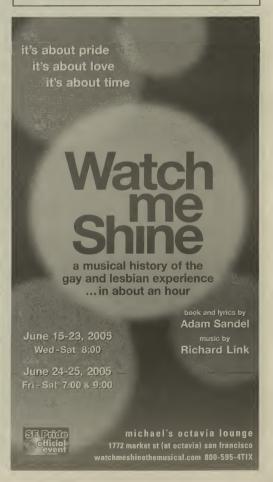
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More than a mouthful

by Jim Piechota

Rainbow Party by Paul Ruditis; Simon & Schuster, \$8.99

igh school hysterics get a 2005 update in this young adult debut that would seem perfectly titled for a gay social club or a gender revolution rally. Instead, this book gets shunned by libraries and boycotted by bookstores for its very description: a cautionary tale

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about a pair of teenaged girls who organize a "Rainbow Party" one afternoon when classes let out.

For those unfamiliar with the For those unfamiliar with the term, a Rainbow Party is a gather-ing of girls who each apply a dif-ferent color of lipstick; then the boys in attendance proceed to drop trou in order to experience varying levels of oral stimulation — the result is a roomful of dicks

varying levels of oral stimulation — the result is a roomful of dicks adorned with rainbow colors. Sounds like great fodder for an urban legend, but these parties do indeed happen — and often.

Sex is an urgent reality for these Harding High teens, especially Gin and Sandy, the gals who host the party. Horny, promiscuous Gin has already "had" most of the cute boys in school, and hopes to mix and match them at her party just to upset their girlto mix and match them at her party just to upset their girl-friends. "Good girl" Sandy wants to adopt Girls "disgusting at times, but thrilling" lifestyle, but is unsure that this is "the kind of popularity she wanted."

The girls invite select members:

popularity she wanted."

The girls invite select members of the in-crowd, avoiding the "discards," while taking flack from Allison, president of the Celibacy Club (who is going to the party anyway). As the clock ticks down to the 3 p.m. start-time, the nail-kiting hearing for the princ hall-kiting hearing for the principal hall and the principal hall are the principal hall and the principal hall are t biting begins for the girls while the boys debate *ad nauseam* that it's not really sex, "it's just oral."

A few of the male invitees,

however, have a more private party of two in mind, as evidenced by some adorable, habitual boyon-boy stall action in the men's room between an oblivious high school jock and his lovestruck be

piercing he just got at the mall! Ruditis' narrative might seem address issues like dress codes, safer sex, peer pressure, and at the book's end, STDs, when an in-creasing number of students suffer mysteriously sore throats and random burning sensations.

It's a non-issue that the Rain-bow Party in this novel never ac-tually materializes. What is most disturbing, however, is the fact that both conservative chain and liberal independent booksellers recoiled at its subject matter, decreasing their initial orders or choosing not to carry the book at

RIIDITIS Rainbow Party

all. This is daring, provocative reading — and also apparently not quite appropriate for 21stcentury teenagers. Now that really sucks. ▼

Gender splendor

by Jim Piechota

Just Add Hormones: An Insider's Guide to the Transsexual Experi ence by Matt Kailey; Beacon Press, \$21.95

ranspeople are a curiosity to others, and there's no way out of it." So says Matt Kai-ley, a Denver-based female-toley, a Denver-based female-to-male transgendered man with an amazing story to tell about his odyssey that began at a surpris-ingly later stage of his life. At age 42, Kailey listened to his heart and embarked on an emotionally and physically challenging journey away from his biological origins as a female (his before-picture re-sembles Pamela Sue Martin in the early-'80s Nancy Drew series) to the man he has become today. the man he has become today.

His experiences run the gamut from Matt's first testosterone shot, his slow but eventually striking physical changes, and chest-reconphysical changes, and chest-reconstruction surgery (that he'd "spent a fortune on" after getting breast enhancements at age 30) to bat-tling prejudice from gay men and

ting prejudice from gay men and wrestling with the decision to change his birth certificate.

Trouble spots emerged along the way, not so much from the time he had to change his first flat tire unassisted or relight his oven's pilot light, but in navigating the tricky posturing that biological men afford one another in social situations where the "good ole situations where the "good ole boy" mentality becomes both sti-

fling and insulting.
The closing chapters steal the

JUST ADD Hormones матт кан е

show as the author answers all of those burning questions hot on every uninitiated person's mind: What's the correct pronoun to use and what to do if you slip up in conversation, how to ask "why!" without being obnoxious, and which bathroom is used (a subject that apparently is "the closest thing to hell" for transgendered folks). While Kailey is certainly opinionated on gay marriage, sexual stereotyping, and Internet dating, his hard-hitting message of "equality for all" is brought home without being heavy-handed.

without being heavy-handed.
Anyone who has ever contemplated, is just curious about, or finds him or herself in the midst of gender transformation will appreciate and applaud this extraor-dinary, comprehensive journal. Both informative and quite fasci-nating, Kailey delivers his life story with a compassionate eye and a true heart. ▼

Watch Me Shine

◀ page 84

cated in song. We are given a brief spoken history of the Anita Bryant controversy, but how much more fun it would be if the god-fearing orange-juice queen had her own

Link's tuneful music cuts across a variety of styles, and a number of the songs are playful pastiches. He's particularly adept the title song), but various at-tempts at the disco form are more pallid (think the theme from Love

Boat) than punchy spoofs.

The hard-working, personable cast is composed of Paige Boston, Kieleil De Leon, Nicky Kealy, Estelle Mays, Arthur Scappaticci, and Jeffrey Van Dyk. Link conducts the show from an onstage piano, and he is abetted by bassist Damon Bennett and drummer Brian Fruechtenicht

Fruechtenicht.

On some of the numbers, intelligibility can be a problem, a situation that likely changes from table to table in the long, narrow room. Should Watch Me Shine find larger quarters, one thing that will need no enhancement the larger Purechase. ment are James DuBeq's costumes. Just about every song gets tumes. Just about every song gets its own set of costumes, often requiring quick changes, and the outfits range from bridal gowns and tuxes to Village People garb, to country bumpkin, to choir robes, and beyond. It must be quite a show behind the scenes as well.

Watch Me Shine will run at Michael's Octavia Lounge through June 25. Tickets are \$20 (plus \$10 food or drink minimum). Call (800) 595-4849 or go to watchmeshinethe musical.com



Imperial urges

M. Yourcenar's strong Greco-Roman vision

by Tavo Amador

ne of the Judeo-Christian tradition's most destructive legacies is weighing sex down with guilt. With notable exceptions, the Bible views heteroceptions, the Bible views hetero-sexual sex as a necessity. Homo-sexual sex is strongly condemned. Christianity glorifies suffering and martyrdom, so joy in carnal plea-sures isn't something it encour-ages. This harsh, judgmental per-spective is at odds with the Greco-Roman view of sex as natural, joy-full, even ecstatic. Neither, the ful, even ecstatic. Neither the Greeks nor the Romans had words for "homosexual" or "heterosexu-al." Men were simply "sexual." In their world, some males preferred sex with women; some with young men; some with both. (Far less is known about women's sex-ual practices. Women had more freedom in Rome than in Greece,

freedom in Rome than in Greece, but far less than men.) In Ancient Greece, the ideal representation of romantic lovers was a man in his 20s and a teenage boy.

A few novelists have succeeded in recreating that pre-Christian, sexually guilt-free world: Robert Graves, with I, Claudius and Claudius the God; Mary Renault, a lesbian, with her stories of ancient Greece, notably the exquisite The Last of the Wine: and Marquerite Last of the Wine; and Marguerite Yourcenar, another lesbian, with her magnificent Memoirs of Hadrian, which has just been reissued by Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux (\$15).

Originally published in 1951 to great acclaim, the novel established Yourcenar. She became the first woman admitted to the Academie Francais. Written in French, it was translated into English by her lover of 40 years, Grace Frick,

a college literature professor.

Born in Spain, Hadrian (A.D. 76-138) is generally regarded as the greatest Roman emperor. He was a distant relative of the Emperor Nerva, whose conquests ex-panded the empire's boundaries Hadrian proved an excellent mili-tary leader and an even greater administrator. Nerva adopted him and made him his heir. Hadrian realized the empire couldn't continue expanding forever, so he consolidated its holdings while defending against barbarian at-tacks. His approach to governing seems very modern. He insisted that all areas of the empire use honest coinage, weights, and measures — essential for trade — and adopt Rome's high standards of civic hygiene. He allowed each nation to worship its own gods,



speak its own language, and fol-low its own customs. Yet, when some Jews insisted that theirs was the only god and refused to allow the worship of any other, he bru-tally destroyed Jerusalem, attack-ing intolerance in the name of tol-

Hadrian traveled extensively: Britain, France, North Africa, the Low Countries, Germany, the Balkans, Turkey, Israel, Egypt. and his beloved Greece. He built everywhere: the wall dividing England from Scotland, the Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens (whose grateful populace built Hadrian's Gate, which still stands), a temple in Nimes, and the most perfectly preserved edifice from antiquity, Rome's glorious Pantheon. When Hadrian was 40, he met a beautiful Bithynian Greek boy, Antinous, aged 13 or 14. The married emperor had previously had affairs with women and youths, but he fell passionately in love with Antinous. Their affair lasted until Antinous' tragic death at 20 — he drowned in the Nile under mysterious circumstances. Some sources say he committed suicide, sacrificing himself to save Hadrian from a curse. Others think it was an accident. Hadrian's ardor had cooled somewhat, and he had engaged in group sex involving Antinous, women, and other males. But the youth's death left him bereft. He designed cities all over the Eastern Mediterranean in his honor, and commissioned statues of the striking Antinous for public display throughout the Empire. Many examples survive and are in muse-ums from Delphi in Greece to the Vatican, which has the young beauty as an Egyptian god. Anti-nous has been the model for rep-resentations of Dionysus/Bacchus since the Renaissance, which is appropriate, since followers of those

gods often engaged in ecstatic, orgiastic rituals

Yourcenar's novel has Hadrian, dying; dictating his memoirs to his successor, Marcus Aurelius. Her prose is magisterial, marmoreal, vivid; her knowledge extraor-dinary. An appendix lists the staggering number of sources provid-ing the basis for her narrative. The novel is exceptionally accurate and covers the full breadth of Hadrian's outstanding achieve-ments, while avoiding hagiogra-phy

French sin

Born in Belgium to a French father and Belgian mother who died shortly after her birth, Yourcenar (1903-87) was raised in Paris. She was tutored privately Paris. She was tutored privately but was principally self-educated, reading widely and mastering many languages — she read Virgil in Latin, Homer in Greek, and Yukio Mishima in Japanese. She claimed to have had her first sexual experience at 11, with a slightly older girl who told her lesbian sex was sinful. Yourcenar replied, "Really?" then fell asleep, untroubled. She had affairs with men and women, mainly the latter, but sometimes fell in love with gay men. She met Frick in Paris in '37; and two years later joined her in and two years later joined her in America. They remained together for 40 years, until Frick's death from cancer. Most of the time, they lived on a tiny island off the coast of Maine, but traveled frequently, except for the last few years of Frick's life, when her illness made journeys impossible. Yourcenar had another success, Yourcenar had another success, The Abyss, set in 16th-century Flanders, and published essays under the collective title of The Dark Brain of Piranesi. Memoirs of Hadrian remains a modern masterpiece. Yourcenar's ability to capture the emperor and

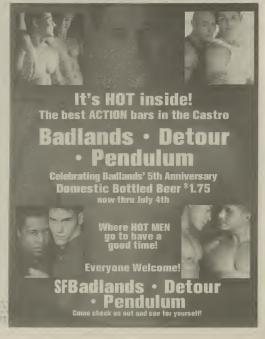
modern masterpiece. Yourcenar's ability to capture the emperor and his world on its own terms is breathtaking. She conveys huge quantities of information effort-lessly, and the novel is hard to put down. It provides a memorable view of homoeroticism as noble and natural.

Readers interested in a nonfic-Readers interested in a nonfic-tion account of one of antiquity's most celebrated love stories should search for Royston Lam-bert's beautiful Beloved and God, published by Viking in '84, but now out of print. Reading Yource-nar and Lambert will inspire read-ers to visit Hadrian's Villa, in Tivoli, outside of Rome, a magnificent, usually deserted collection of ruins that is one of the most ro-mantic places on Earth. ▼



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Backstage

◆ page 84

and/or full-length plays.
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NCTC subscribers, Theatre Bay Area members, and Conservatory parents receive a 10% discount on class fees. For more info, call Conservatory Director Andrew Nance at 861-4914

'A' for Bebe

Part of the proceeds from the final performance of the hit SF run of *Here Lies Jenny* will be donated to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Those attending the 7 p.m. June 26 performance at the Post Street Theatre are invited to stay for a Q&A session with star Bebe Neuwirth.

star Bebe Neuwirth.
Tickets to this performance are \$55 and \$60, with \$5 from each ticket sold going to BC/EFA.
The cast will also sign Here Lies Jenny posters, with 100% of those proceeds benefiting the charity. For tickets, call 771-6900 or go to tickets, each care. ticketmaster.org.

Theatre Rhino is finding that its revival of Medea: The Musical

can still tickle audiences a decade can sin tickle audiences a decade after the sassy upstart first crashed the downtown theater scene. Originally set to close June 19, John Fisher's backstage satire of gay theater will now run through July 3. Call 861-5079 or

through July 3. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Over at New Conservatory Theatre Center, audiences are lapping up Whoop-Dee-Dool, mirroring the success that its companion piece When Pigs Fly enjoyed a year ago. This giddily gay show about putting on a giddily gay show will keep agoin through July 10. Call 861-8972.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Mr. Trucker Man

Mark Weigle hits a populist note on his new double-CD 'SoulSex'

by Mark Mardon

ot since Woody Guthrie rang out, "This land is your land, this land is my land" has a folk musician struck such a powerful populist note. Bal-ladeer/rocker Mark Weigle taps the working-class queer contingent, the down-to-earth crowd, the guys and gals who work hard and play hard, who value respect, cooperation, responsibility and community. He's a hero to the community. He's a hero to the leather men and women, the bears, cowboys, sexual outlaws, people with HIV/AIDs, people who struggle and fail, people who succeed at all costs, people with a conscience, people who are aware. He's a genuine storyteller, not just a writer of songs, leaning heavily toward sincerity, but not without abundant doses of irony — all in-tertwined with open queer sexu-

tertwined with open queer sexu-ality.

Weigle will play an acoustic Pride concert on Saturday, June 25, 8 p.m. at Noe Valley Ministry (1020 Sanchez St.), a small but acoustically superior music venue that's sure to be packed to its

wooden rafters. The date also marks Mark's 38th birthday, and for the occasion he is launching his double-CD project, *SoulSex* (*Wrestling the Angel/Versatile*), an exceptional package of thematic art and music, possibly the queerest album ever conceived.

He's the old-school leader of the new queer music pack in the new queer pack in th

He's the old-school leader of the new queer music pack in the Bay Area and beyond, not just be-cause he's out, proud, highly visi-ble, and rocks the good rock, but because his whole body of work is a seductive conceptual-art piece. Leader of the queer outlaw pack, with a poet's heart and a preach-er's passion and delivery, Weigle is a lone queer rocker howling in the wilderness, calling out for justice, wilderness, calling out for justice, respect and honesty. A combination of activism, sex

A combination of activism, sex and great music render a revolutionary aspect to *SoulSex*, comprised of "Versatile," the more hard-rocking, sexual CD; and the quieter, more introspective "Wrestling the Angel" CD, the gentle, acoustic side of Weigle most of us know best. The combo packs a wallop, delving not just into sex, but the soul, the struggle to overcome obstacles, the quest



'You grow up thinking you're the only queer. Then you meet your tribe.'

for truth and identity, and the courage to be out in an increasingly hostile world.

Inspired place

Inspired place
Weigle spent about two years
evolving the project in consultation with "a handful of muses."
"I'd kind of run out of songs, and
I'm not one of these two-songsbefore-breakfast songwriters. I
have to wait 'til the muse hits me,
and I have to have space in my,
life." Since he runs his own oneman record label, he didn't have a
lot of that space.

lot of that space. His fourth CD, Different and the Same, a cover album, was conceived "partly to buy myself some time to refill the well and get back in the writing zone.'

The singer was touring in Germany in 2002, doing his naughty repertoire, "and the sex songs were just fun! I didn't have to worry about making people cry, or be sensitive. I would sit on trains going through Europe on tour and come up with 'Mr. Trucker Man.'" Eventually, he realized he had a record's worth of material,

and a thriving audience for it.

The softer side of the project, and of the man, is illustrated by "Little Boy," a song exploring a man's hurt inner-boy; "Lazy Mexican," a sad but on-target satire of racism; and "White Scarves on Thursdays," an ode to Las Madres of the Plaza de Mayo in Argenti-na, whose children were disap-peared, "dragged screaming into cars, thrown from helicopters." The songwriter's heart can be felt in Weigle's blistering attack on clerical hypocrisy in "Blessing," and in his quest to embrace life, light and flight in the face of hopelessness and death in "Why Not Fly." These paeans to justice and dignity pack clout because their words are unsparing, even as

their words are unsparing, even as they're poetic and uplifting. "The journey that 'Little Boy' is about is hopefully one we're all on," says Weigle. "It's about me as a kid understanding instinctively that I have to squash my little queer, artsy kid, which a lot of us does then reclaiming that sweet dueer, artsy kid, which a lot of us do; then reclaiming that sweet, sensitive, artsy, loving kid that I was; and integrating that with being an adult man, a sexual man and a powerful man. It's been a

Van chilla

Another song, "Victim," touches on hurtful events. "When I was about 15, I absolutely knew what I wanted, which was to be with a gay man with a mustache." Then he read a story in his local paper about a kid his gare "who had hean." about a kid his age "who had been busted in the back of a van with this guy in his 30s. I remember thinking, that's exactly my fantasy! That's what I wanted, to be snuggled up with this man in the back of a van on a snowy morning. I just imagined what that kid

went through."

Weigle defends the seemingly stereotypical portrayal of a Mexican in "Lazy Mexican" by pointing out the song's ironic intent. "If we out the song's ironic intent. 'If we can't talk about things like that, how are we ever supposed to shine a light on it and try to rid ourselves of it?" The song was inspired by his roommate for two years, a Mexican man from Michoacán who'd just come to the

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WHAT AM I DOING IN THE CLOSET ?



Alec Mapa

◀ Arts cover

straight, it's just silly."

The tension surrounding the reputations of closeted actors was recently driven home for Mapa while he was taping a comedy special for the new gay Logo channel.
"The censors were very touchy about me not mentioning names of any celebrities. Between the lawyers and the publicists, there's a whole industry based on protect-ing the names of closeted actors."

Hometown boy makes good

A native San Franciscan, Mapa was discovered 14 years ago when he starred on Broadway in M. Butterfly. He also appeared on Broadway in A Little Hotel on the Side and Timon of Athens, as well as the New York Shakespeare Festival productions of A Language of Their Own and Dogeaters.

Mapa officially came out in his

Mapa officially came out in his autobiographical one-man show I Remember Mapa at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, which earned him multiple awards and a citation from the National Cay and Leshian Tayle National Gay and Lesbian Task

Force.
"When I came out, it was the first thing I had done that was authentic, and then everything started to happen. All the casting direc-tors in town discovered that I was

funny and had something to say."

The exposure led to guest-star-ring roles on over 30 felevision seus Including Seinfeld, Roseanne



'I didn't change, the climate did.'

NYPD Blue and Friends. Mapa be

NTPD Blue and Friends, Mapa be-came TV's first gay Asian series regular on Some of My Best Friends, starring Jason Bateman. "I didn't change, but the cli-mate has changed. I'm not doing anything differently," Mapa said of his recent GLAAD honor and recognition as a Pride Grand Mar-shal. "I've always done communi-ty service and supported AIDS causes, but now that I'm on a TV show, it highlights it."

Mapa currently shares an 80-year-old Spanish home in Los Angeles with his partner of three years, actor Jaimison Hebert. "We registered as domestic partners in January, but we want to have a party so we can get presents." Although two actors under one roof can be romanucally problematic.

Mapa said, "It took awhile, but

we've gotten good at taking care of each other and giving each other space when we're performing." On frequent trips back to his hometown of San Francisco to

visit his gay sister and her partner, Mapa is struck by how much has Mapa is struck by how much has changed since he was growing up here. "I can't get over how much SoMa has changed. It used to be the place you'd just go to buy handcuffs, but now you can go to the movies and ride a merry-goround! The only thing that hasn't changed is that the Tradecloin is changed is that the Tenderloin is still a pit."

Mapa notes that the differences between living in San Francisco and Los Angeles are also striking. "San Francisco is very diverse and san Francisco is very diverse and only 7x7 miles, so you have to get along. You have very diverse groups of people who really are friends. LA is like a giant thirdworld country that's separated by the haves and the have-nots. It's diverse, but the different types of records don't have awaything to do. people don't have anything to do with each other."

He also notes that the choice of Pride parade says something about LA: "It says that we're the biggest bunch of star-fuckers in the world. It reminds me of being gay in 8th grade and feeling like you're not cool, so you try to align yourself with the most popular kids. I hope that someday we can get past that."

By choosing the unquestion-ably worthy Alec Mapa as Celebri-ty Grand Marshal, San Francisco has proven that we already have. V

we can

HIV keeps spreading because people are still having unprotected sex. The only way it's going to stop is if we stop it. Basically, I'm an HIV positive guy trying to do whatever I can to make sure nobody else gets this disease. Are you with me?

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INDEPENDENT. PROUD.



Tchaikovsky, given in all his glory

Iconic gay composer in new releases just in time for Pride month

by Tim Pfaff

t's a lagniappe that superb recordings of fine but little-known works by Tchaikovsky, the iconic gay composer, have ap-peared in time for Gay Pride fes-tivities. Certainly the musicians on the Brodsky Quartet's new CD of the String Quartets 2 & 3 (Brodsky Records) and Russian pianist Mikhail Pletnev's new pianist Mikhail Pletnev's new recording of the late 18 Pieces for solo piano (DG) have every reason to be proud — not only of their playing, but for bringing music by a great composer out of the shadows, if not the closet.

It's as vivid as yesterday when one of my mentors, now the New York magazine critic corrected my.

York magazine critic, corrected my

pathetically limited view of the composer. At the time, Tchaikovsky was for me (as he was for so many unthinking lis-teners) little more than the master of the big tune, known mostly by way of the then-ubiquitous Piano Concerto No. 1, the sweeping bal-lets, and some of the then still relatively rarely performed operas. Perusing my friend's library of Perusing my friend's library of scores, I commented, wryly, upon seeing Tchaikovsky's String Quartets, "Those must be real weepies." "No, they're just superb," he responded dryly.

Even though I've yet to hear a Tchaikovsky quartet in concert—which strikes me now as scandalous — I've found plenty of recorded confirmation of Peter G. Davis' view. The Brodeky's own.

Davis' view. The Brodsky's own-

label new versions of No. 2 in F, Op. 22, and No. 3 in E-flat minor, Op. 30, are as good as any currently available, more deeply felt

than most, and in superior sound.

The Quartet — which takes its name from that of Adolph Brodsky, who, among other achieve-ments, retrieved Tchaikovsky's Viments, retrieved transcossey's vi-olin Concerto from the wastebin (having been deemed unplayable by its dedicatee, Leopold Auer), and by proving otherwise, estab-lishing it as the masterpiece we know today — play with their namesake's drive and wisdom.

Like much of Tchaikovsky's chamber music, these pieces are daunting in the extreme in their technical demands. The music is written that way to convey ex-tremes of expression, and the rea-

and Victoria de los Angeles (EMI)

and Victoria de los Angeles (EMI) offer comparable contrast and spirit — Auger, recorded two years before her death, tears me apart in "La delaïssádo" — while the far more even, low-keyed Karina Gauvin offers singing so beautiful and heartfelt as to make Cantalacho."

teloube's music a portal to heaven's gates. ▼

son they're such crowd-pleasers when they're pulled off is not merely because of the evident vir-tuosity of the musicians but because of the strength — and frequently, heights and depths — of feeling expressed.

High voltage

Fasten your seat belts for the beginning of the Second Quartet, which comes at you with a feroci-ty that knocks you back in your seat. (It was a British critic's claim seat. (It was a British critic's claim that it was "pitched a fraction too high in terms of emotional voltage" that made me hunt this CD down.) The relative playfulness of the second movement, which still has its moments when the Brod-sky bow-work feels like swordplay, and buoyancy of the fugal fourth leave no doubt about the Brod-

leave no doubt about the Brodsky's range.

The players — violinists Andrew Haveran and Ian Belton, violist Paul Cassidy and cellist Jacqueline Thomas — reserve their most nuanced playing for the Andante ma non tanto, the emotional core of the work, although they unleash emotions of lacerating intensity, too.

In Paris in 1876, Tchaikovsky interrupted composition of Swan Lake to compose his Third Quartet, in a month. Its urgency of utterance infuses the Brodsky's

tet, in a month, its trigency of ut-terance infuses the Brodsky's heady yet deep-into-the-strings performance. Not surprisingly, given his work on Swan Lake and the fact that he had just been



Great composer given his due.

knocked sideways by hearing Carmen for the first time, the work is more tuneful than the Second, but the tunes are those only the most despondent of Russians could have written.

Top-drawer music from first to last, it reaches one of the highest (and emotionally most somber) places in all of Tchaikovsky in the third-movement Andante funebre (possibly in memory of the first violinist in the performances of his first two quartets, and a friend). It's dense, tough music, but the Brodsky musicians do all the hard work for you. More re-markably, they do what string players do only when they're play-

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Extraordinary colors

Recordings for Canteloube junkies

by Jason Victor Serinus

he history of music is filled with one-off composers who might have faded into obscurity had they not written a few works so memorable and enagain and again. Such is the case with Marie-Joseph Canteloube de Malaret, mercifully known as Joseph Canteloube, a pupil of Vin-

cent d'Indy.

Most of Canteloube's classical Most of Canteloube's classical compositions remain virtually unknown. Rather, it is his Songs of the Auvergne (Chants d'Auvergne), five sets of folk-song arrangements for voice and orchestra composed between 1927 and '55 that have earned him widespread recognition Canteloube by the recognition. Canteloube bathed the songs he collected from the Auvergne region of France, just south of the country's geographic center, with broad washes of orchestral color, using brilliant in-strumental highlights to illuminate the enchanting lyric beauty and naïveté of their melodies.

Just as every soprano with the pes to do them justice longs to tackle Richard Strauss' Four Last Songs, so have countless lyric so-pranos and high mezzos recorded pranos and high mezzos recorded the Songs of the Auvergne. The songs "Bailèro" and "Brezairola" ("Lullaby") are especially popular, their long-breathed, wistful lines providing balm for the soul. Even singers who do not possess the verye required to convince in singers who do not possess the verve required to convince in jaunty melodies such as "Malurous qu'o uno Fenno" ("Unfortunate is He Who Has a Wife") have set down treasurable interpretations of "Bailèro" and other soothing gems. Kiri Te Kanawa comes to mind.

The latest entry in a recorded lineage that began in the 1930s with Madeleine Grey's earthy interpretations of songs from Canteloube's first four sets (Pearl)

teloube's first four sets (Pearl) comes from soprano Véronique Gens and the Orchestre National de Lille conducted by Jean-Claude Casadesus (Naxos). Not only has Gens provided consistently distin-guished singing in René Jacobs' award-winning Mozart record-ings, but Naxos has flattered her artistry by issuing an audiophile quality disc.



Orchestrally, the recording is a major achievement. Casadesus makes the most of Canteloube's billowing colors and shimmering billowing colors and simmlering effects, intelligently pinpointing solo instruments to underscore words and melodic intervals. As much as I favor Karina Gauvin's recent, beautifully recorded interrecent, beautifully recorded inter-pretation with chamber orchestra (CBC Records), the use of the larger orchestral forces Can-teloube intended brings greater pleasure. Canteloube junkies en-amored of Netania Davrath's charming versions of the songs (Vanguard Classics), sung in au-thentic dialect with an unpreten-tious voice that sounds far more tious voice that sounds far more like a peasant's than a diva's, don't realize there's even more to Can-teloube's music when his orchestral writing receives its proper

due.
Unfortunately, Gens' timbre is ill-suited to these works. She can be quite touching in "La delaïssá-do," a song about a shepherdess do," a song about a shepherdess deserted by her lover, but mostly she sounds like a patrician Count-ess summarily displaced from her chambers. There's much beauty to

chambers. There's much beauty to her singing, but the voice type sounds misplaced in this context. At Michael Tilson Thomas' re-cent 60th-birthday gala celebra-tion, the great Frederica von Stade amazed her audience by singing two of Cartledube's eggs with a amazed ner audience by singing two of Canteloube's gems with a voice and spirit that belied her age. After Flicka's "Uno Jionto Postouro" ("A Pretty Shep-herdess") wept for the lover who had deserted her with heartbreak-ing hollowness, her "Lou coucut" chirped away with enough energy to power every clock on the planet. I don't have von Stade's early Auvergne recordings on CD, but memory declares them superb. Arleen Auger (Virgin Classics)

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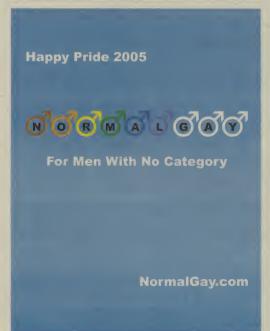
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Tammy Faye Messner, having survived inoperable lung cancer, is the subject of a new documentary in the fest.

Frameline29

■ Arts cover

aristocracy — Mapplethorpe, Nureyev, Mineo — men he claims he met standing in the shadows. "There are a lot of people I met in the gutter ...famous, famous peo-ple ...all in the gutter." Berlin shows a private treasure trove of photos and home movies

trove of photos and home movies celebrating himself as the essence of male allure — a young man masturbating on a train. Gay celebrities explain their fascination with him. The saucy John Waters puts it best. "Peter Berlin was a great exhibitionist with a single part of the sauch John Waters puts it best." was a great exhibitionist with a signature haircut who looked like the Dutch boy on the paint-can, and a crotch, when you first saw it you thought it was a joke, that he had stuffed 50 rags in there. He wasn't campy. I didn't see him at the Cockettes. He was always dressed with this dick — how you think of Jane Mansfield walking down the street in *The Girl Cont*. down the street in *The Girl Can't Help It*, when the iceman looks up, and all the ice melts on the truck." (*Castro*, 6/23)

Garçon Stupide (Stupid Boy) Swiss director Lionel Baier gives swiss director Librier basel gives us a sexy twist on the usual com-ing-of-age story. Loic spends his time spinning around his French-speaking canton in what seems like a nonstop series of hard-core Internet male dates. Squatting with female friend Marie, Loic flails around to find a purpose for his life that beats his job as an assembly-line inspector at a choco-late factory. A friend tells him he's a great photographer. Should he photograph lions in Africa or the piercings underneath the balls of a well-hung, tattooed trick? The film is structured around convernim is structured around conversations with an unseen older stranger who gets under Loic's skin. Caution for frank sex scenes and a large uncut penis. (Victoria,

Tammy Faye: Death Defying "I never dreamed that someday my name would be known every-where. Only God could do that with someone with no talent." Tammy Faye Messner is far too modest. Her talent is real, if peculiarly American. A gift for gab, an abiding belief that perhaps you'll never die if only you can just keep talking. In this installment of life talking. In this installment of life after her divorce from televange-list hubby Jim Bakker, Tammy Faye dukes it out with the Lord after she is found to have an inoperable type of lung cancer.

Sentimental to the core, but also a realist who carefully hedges her bet. Tampy Faye's life her

her bets, Tammy Faye's life be-

comes a whirlwind of hospital cancer wards, chemotherapy drips, trips to an acupuncturist, a yoga class, and an AIDS hospice, where she sweetly swaps icky treatment stories with the mostly male residents.

male residents.
She's surrounded by loyal friends, a saintly second husband, and a pair of little dogs that match the kitschy throw-pillow decor. Chris McKim, aided by producers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, sees Tammy Faye as a mix between a female Elvis and a kindly patron saint whose faith bears no malice for the sinner or the sin. A patron saint whose faith bears no malice for the sinner or the sin. A trip to the hospital with Tammy Faye almost allows you to forget why you're there. "The Bible says there will be no tears in heaven, so I won't be crying anymore." (Castro, 6/25)

Race You to the Bottom Writer/director Russell Brown dares comparisons with the much-touted Sideways with this precisely observed 20something comedy detailing the romantic misadventures of a travel writer who's skateboarding across the Kinsey scale. Nathan (the comely Cole Williams, last observed as the bisexual pop star flirting with brotherly incest in the underrated Harry & Max) has planned a weekend getaway with the woman of his life. The rub is she has a of his life. The rub is she has a boyfriend, and in fact, so does Nathan. Just before Tara and Nathan depart for the Napa Valley in Nathan's humble VW wagon, Tara's unemployed boyfriend Milo, a wannabe investigative journalist, tries to put a good face on his symbolic cuckolding at the hands of a puff-piece artist. "Take care of my girl this weekend."

end."
"Don't worry, I always take care of our girl. Nice ass!"
Williams plays the tortured subtext of a man who claims to love aggressive women and passive men, while dishing out mean one-liners. "The taste of another man on you makes me hot."

It's a sublimely funny take on a

new generation some have labeled "the undefineds," an under-25 set for whom the old labels gay, fag hag, and bisexual are supposedly obsolete. But as Nathan and Tara obsolete. But as Nathan and fara-take a winery tour led by a raging fem of a guide, Nathan's long-buried resentment of blatant gays surfaces, provoking Tara's insecurity about being caught loving a guy who's on the run from love from either sex. Director Brown

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Garçon Stupide is a sexy Swiss twist on the usual coming-of-age story

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KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir.

singredients, including lopinavir or ritonavir.

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Please see important patient information on adjacent page.





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KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ses) inhibitor. KALETRA is a hways used in combination with other and HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

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mentiones that require to essage adjustments. It is possible that you doesn't make the possible that you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

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- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") or the contraceptive patch to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral or patch
- contineepiese.

 Elivireas (Sucilval'N), sevirapine (Viranuase⁽⁰⁾), Agenemo (unpreassivi) and Viraceg (neifinavir) any Joner the amount of KALETRA is your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking eflavirea, recipiese, unserpease for enfliancir.

 If you are taking Mycobatin® (rifabusia), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobatin.

 A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

 Elivenostical Continues of the Contin

at are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacrist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowed movements), darrhea, feeling weal/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Endod tests in pistonetts taking KALEFRA and was have been possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Bond tests in pistonet taking KALEFRA and Reputitis C was have worson-time liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred to a liver between the RALEFRA asset disease these liver problems because some patients had other livers or were taking observed in the CALEFRA asset diseased these liver problems because some patients had other livers or were taking observed in the CALEFRA asset diseased these liver problems because some patients had other livers or were taking observed in the CALEFRA asset diseased these livers of the CALEFRA asset diseased these livers of the CALEFRA asset diseased these livers with their pancrease (puncreasities), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreasities if you have bed it before. Tell your doctor if you have seen seen.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA.
 Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

 Changes in body fix have been seen in some patients bulgs antiertoviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and need "thuffulo hump", breast, and around the trust. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may sho happer. The cause and long term beath effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

 Some patients with hemophilis have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors:

 There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the littles itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

 What should I tall my doctor before taking MALETRA?

- when a smooth! I tall my doctor neutre laking RALE HA?

 # Jisou are preparator or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unbown bables are not known.

 # Jisou are prepared or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV HI you are a woman who has or will have a bably, talk with your dector about the best ways to feed your bubly. You should be aware that if your bably does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through best-effecting.
- If you have fiver problems: If you have fiver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- tell your acctor entere tamp RALELIEA.

 I Syou have deleries: Some people taking protesse inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

 If you have hermophilize: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

- How do I store KALETRA? Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health can provides if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition.

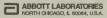
Talk to your doctor or other health can provides if you have any questions about this medicine are your condition.

Talk to your doctor or other health can provide the provides of the

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Troubled youth

James Dean stars in a new DVD set

by Tavo Amador

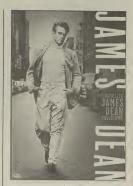
f James Dean (1931-55) were alive today, he'd be 74 years old. Although dead for 50 years, his fame is undiminished, his image familiar around the world, his appeal transcending generations. Elia Kazan's version of John Steinbeck's East of Eden ('55) made him a star and has been issued in DVD, available individually or as part of a set that includes Dean's two other major films, Rebel Without a Cause ('55)

and Giant ('56). Set in 1917 in Salinas and Set in 1917 in Salinas and Monterey, with America on the brink of entering World War I, Eden is about a young man, Cal Trass (Dean), coming of age and discovering, then revealing, the painful truth about his family and about the permanent loss he feels from having grown up without a mother. It's also about Cal, the bad son, behaving terribly vet making son, behaving terribly yet making an honest attempt to earn forgive-ness and redeem himself; Adam, his father (Raymond Massey), whose moral certainties are chal-Richard Davalos) who, when confronted with shocking truths, cannot face them. The women in (Julie Harris) and the enigmatic Kate (Jo Van Fleet), are strong. What makes the film powerful is that the characters are truly

three-dimensional, each an hon-est mixture of good and bad, searching for affection and re-spect, even if they take different paths to find them. There are no villains, just flawed individuals who sometimes behave harshly

and hurt one another deeply.

Dean is moving as Cal, making self-involvement and brooding in-trospection touching, yet showing how frustrating such a son could be. He was posthumously nomi-



nated for the Best Actor Academy nated for the Best Actor Academy Award (as he would be again the next year, for *Giant*), but lost to Ernest Borgnine's bathetic *Marty*. Massey is excellent, bringing com-plexity to a part that could easily become caricature. His Adam is good-hearted and hard-working, justifying his preference for Aaron by citing Cal's rebellious behavior. During calls receimous benavior.

During filming, the veteran

Massey clashed with Dean over
the latter's refusal or inability to
play a scene in the same way during the state of the same way are stated to the same way during the state of the same way are stated to the same way are same as the same way are s

play a scene in the same way during retakes. Their real-life tension is evident on screen.

Davalos, whom Kazan chose over Paul Newman for Aaron, is appealing and attractive, but unable to bring more to the role than is written. Harris' gentleness works well with Dean's passion, and she effectively conveys her conflicting feelings for the brothers. She loves Aaron and fears Cal. commenting feelings for the broth-ers. She loves Aaron and fears Cal, whose wildness disturbs her dreams of a placid life. Van Fleet, in an Oscar-winning perfor-mance, plays Kate without sentimentality, making much of her small part. Paul Osborn's screenplay meanders, and Kazan's direc-tion is leisurely but atmospheric. Extras include Forever James Dean, which features interviews

with colleagues and friends. It inaccurately states that *Eden* was his first movie. In fact, Dean had bits first movie. In fact, Dean had bits in Fixed Bayonets ('51), Sailor Beware and Has Anybody Seen My Gal? ('52), the latter starring Rock Hudson, with whom he would clash while making Giant. It also suggests that Dean was heterosexual. According to most accounts, he was bisexual.

Having failed to make an impression in Hollywood, Dean returned to New York, worked on live television, and scored a suc-

live television, and scored a suc-cess as the bisexual Arab boy in the dramatization of Andre Gide's The Immoralist. That performance brought him to Kazan's attention. Dean's mother died when he was Deans mother died when he was nine, marking him for life and helping him convey Cal's anguish in *Eden*, which may have encour-aged Kazan to use him, although

aged waran to use film, annough he did not like Dean the person. The documentary foolishly compares Dean with Gary Coop-er, Clark Gable and Humphrey Bogart. Dean was in the tradition Bogart. Dean was in the tradition of Montgomery Clift and Marlon Brando, but differed from both. He lacked Clift's maturity and Brando's physicality. In his first two starring roles, Dean memorably etched troubled teenagers. Clift and Brando, on the other hand played grown us In Cigart. hand, played grown-ups. In Giant, Dean aged as he portrayed his character in maturity, but his per-formance was mannered and uneven, though effective in certain

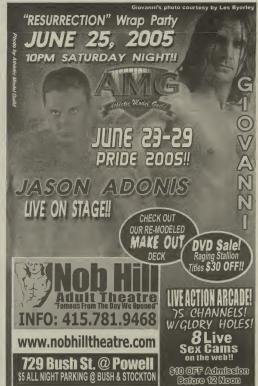
even, though effective in certain scenes.

Whether he had Brando's range cannot be answered. His talent was genuine: on screen, he was sexy, virile, boyish, and sympathetic. In life, however, he was manipulative, surly, and was at least one older man's kept boy for a spell. But no actor ever made such a lasting impact on audiences in a lasting impact on audiences in so short a time, and his death from a car accident was genuinely tragic.









Tchaikovsky

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ing at peak: they make the music sound as much it's coming from human voices as wooden instruments. The untrammeled power of the piece is brought to a deeply satisfying conclusion in the high-propulsion Allegro risoluto finale.

Pletney, one of our finest living pianists and one of the few to have played all of Tchaikovsky, brings his usual flair, unerring touch, and rich palette of piano colors to Op. 78, short pieces that were Tchaikovsky's last for solo piano. He described writing these carefully crafted miniatures as "turning out pancakes," but as the Zurich audience in this live recording of a year ago discovered, they're far more delicious than

Less substantial than the solo piano cycle *The Seasons*, especialpiano cycle 1ne veasons, especial-ly in Pletnev's unparalleled recording, they're still tirelessly absorbing. A sublime Chopin Nocturne in C-sharp minor, Op. posth., is the meal following these delectable hors d'oeuvres. ▼



Good and short

Mixed shorts programs in Frameline29

by David Lamble

oys by the Bay C.H.A.M.P. stands for Cannabis Helping Alleviate Medical Problems. In light of the recent distressing Supreme Court decision upholding draconian Federal anti-pot laws, Eric Smith presents a small time-capsule video in memory of his friend Steven, who used his membership to stave off wasting syndrome with some potent brownies. "And you think this is going to stop somebody from busting you?" asks the filmmaker as Steven displays his pot-club membership card, with its photo of himself taken in happier times.

To Hold a Heart There seems to be a Roland Barthes hug going

To Hold a Heart There seems to be a Roland Barthes bug going around. Michael Wallin helms the second festival short tipping its hat to the French philosopher. Wallin enploys Barthes' A Lover's Discourse to frame a meditation on a gym relationship between an older white filmmaker and a young Japanese man (Taro Masushio). Wallin explores the halting progress, the awkward moments of courtship that transpire over 10 months. "I longed to touch him but couldn't, except for the perfunctory squeeze of the knee or goodbye hug."

touch nim but couldn't, except for the perfunctory squeeze of the knee or goodbye hug."

Taro says, "The older person desires a younger man. The younger person needs the older one." This film offers a bittersweet confirmation of this wisdom. Michael Kaulkin's music gives an elegiac mood to Wallin's method of presenting the beloved in a series of video snapshots, in varying states of dress and arousal.

states of dress and arousal.

Thom Gunn - Double Portrait

The late poet's "American Boy" is read in a visually arresting double-performance, created by Rudy Lemcke.

Abridged Filimmaker Mark Mc-Cormick delivers an ode to the Golden Gate's less sexy but equally potent sister span. Good to watch during this nervous quake season. McCormick notes how the Bay Bridge soothed him during the heady dot-com days, was his trick road to hot sex in a Berkeley bungalow, and provided the setting for the nicest speech his dad would ever utter in his presence. Pretty soon the old lady will be totally made over, and we'll have this film to remember her by. Accompanied by a treasure trove of the best of Joni Mitchell. (Victoria, 6/25)

Girls by the Bay Faith-Based Charity Maria Breaux's intriguing short has a lonely mature woman answering an ad to perform an extremely personal service for a younger woman. Nora's (Sarah Korda) unusual need oddly enough fills a thwarted desire in Maggie's (Veneita Porter) life. A terrific, offbeat idea, beautifully executed.

Our Life, A Hidden Life Alexa Inkeles introduces us to the members and the parents of members of the largest queer rights group in Brazil. Some tell stories of unexpected acceptance at home, and some still have a way to go. Since 1996, the group has been pushing the frontiers for human rights in a society where lawless elements (some on government payrolls) still terrorize sexual/social minorities. (*Victoria*, 6/25)

Luck Be a Lady You're Still Young
In Barbara Green's gritty yet
dreamlike short, Becky (Crystal
Day), a depressed 16-year-old,
finds an unexpected mentor in the
last booth of a diner specializing
in extra-crispy fries and the best
advice you'll ever get. Hand-held
camerawork and a good music
track flesh out a slice of heartfelt
social realism.
In Elizabeth McCarthy's Every-

In Elizabeth McCarthy's Everything Good, a sexual take-out service gives a middle-aged woman quite a bit more than she bargained for. "Ivana, we both know you do what you do for the money." "That is what you think I know. Money is good, but human touch is better." The world would truly be a better place if sex work could be organized like this. A nifty script by Caren M. Block, with soulful performances by Lea Tolub Brandenburg as Lila the client; Judith Partelow, terrific as the call-girl who really wants to please; and Carolina Kava, a perfect Madam who gives the right accent to a very ample menu of treats. (Roxie, 6/25) ▼



Night Scene explores male prostitution in the new Chinese economy.

Frameline29

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gives us tantalizing snippets of Nathan's checkered past, erotic snapshots as brutally revealing as old prize-fights. Amber Benson, as Tara, graduates from her sidekick role on TV's Buffy the Vampire Slayer to trade verbal punches with the champ, a boy/man who calls her his girlfriend when confronted with an old college buddy he's not out to.

"Must be exhausting keeping all those façades percolating along. Something about a serial need to seduce people reeks of self-loathing."

Climaxing in the mud-bath from hell, this is a prescient look at a frisky collection of metrosexuals where anybody can be had, if not happy, (Castro, 6/24; Victoria, 6/25)

Life in a Box Welcome to the looking-glass world of gay showbiz. Jay and Steven were lovers, country singers, funny, talented guys whose lives became caught up in their act. They called themselves Y'all, and they lived a pretty good if hardscrabble life on the road. This funny and predictable and slightly disappointing life changed suddenly when a third man, Roger, and his dog joined the relationship. That was wonderful, until it wasn't. Part Smothers Formedy Hour, part Grand Ole Opry, part gay male Scenes from a Marriage, produced, directed and co-edited from over 250 hours of video by Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer. (Roxie, 6/25)

Transamerica Unscreened but with terrific buzz. Felicity Huffman (most recently of *Desperate Housewives*) is Bree, a person in

the final stages of changing sexes, but not before she cleans up a bit of unfinished business. Learning she has a son from a long-ago one-night-stand, Bree travels to New York to rescue the troubled adolescent. Toby (Leo lookalike Kevin Zegers) is a rent boy who asks Bree to take him with her to LA. (Castro, Closing Night, 6/26)

Night Scene A handsome youth stares into the camera, popping gum into his mouth. "I'm still a virgin. Are you interested in me?" Director Cui Zi'en bravely explores a very taboo sphere of the new China economy, male prostitution as a huge growth industry. With a mix of real "gigolos," as they call themselves, and actors playing rent boys, the filmmaker probes the motives of the often fresh-from-the-country bumpkins who service other men. Beginning with a classic Chinese film image: a guy stares into a fish tank and confesses to feeling "sick and cheap" after a client requested a blow-job. Afterwards, he cries. Another says defiantly, "I hate men. That's why I sold my body to them." (Roxie, 6/25)

The Last Day Director Rodolphe Marconi plunges us into the family secrets buried in a coastal hideaway when moody 18-year-old art student Simon (the ravishing Gaspard Ulliel) comes home on a Christmas school-break, passing off Louise, a stranger he met on the train, as his girlfriend. An old boyfriend, Mathieu, pops up, and tension mounts. An unexpectedly moving masturbation scene prepares us for the poignant resolution of a stressful holiday. Ah, the French, they fuck each other and fuck with our heads. (Victoria, 6/24) ▼

Mark Weigle

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States "who would go into tirades about how 'Americans think we're these little ceramic guys' even as he's working three jobs, studying English at night, working his ass off. Still, he'd get called lazy by

What are the Mothers of the Disappeared doing on a "queer" album?

"Well, my lover of eight years is from Argentina, Daniel Felitti, and I got to go to Argentina and saw the Mothers of the Disappeared. Plus I have a lot of problems with our society here in the US, our Kulture with a K. I'm really attracted to Central and South American culture, I think it's much more real and laid-back. I'm attracted to that."

The real goldmine for guys at-

attracted to that.

The real goldmine for guys attempting to marry spirit and sex is found in the "Versatile" CD, with its emphasis on the nitty-gritty of gay life. It traverses through a list

of erotic positions, styles, body parts and kinky propositions. But the core is Weigle's compassion, emphasized in the title song, "SoulSex," in two versions, one louder and more insistent, the other softer and more supplicating. Weigle says the song acknowledges his older gay brothers "who talk about the intensity of bodyfluid exchange back in the '70s heyday, when you grew up alone thinking you're the only queer in the world. Then you meet your tribe, and it's like this incredible festival of fuckin' and suckin' and the sacredness of coming inside each other. That was hard for a lot of guys to let go of. AIDS came along, so basically what I'm saying in 'SoulSex' is that body fluids are not what's it's really about. It's not the sacred part. The powerful part, potentially, of two men making love is the emotional/soulful connection. You can still have that with rubbers on and no fluid exchange, if you just open yourselves to each other in that way. Bring your heart to it."



Wilde boys

Discs for LGBT Pride

by Gregg Shapiro

n this year of commemorating the 150th anniversary of the publication of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass, and the 110th anniversary of the premieres of Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband and The Importance of Being Earnest, I like to think of the gay male musicians below as direct descendants of these two incredibly important literary figeredibly important literary figered. credibly important literary fig-



Openly gay glam rocker Jobriath

If Oscar Wilde had been an openly gay American glam rocker in the 1970s, with a theatrical background and an equally thebackground and an equally the-atrical flair, he might have gone by the name Jobriath. Born Bruce Campbell, Jobriath walked the walk where Bowie only talked the talk. Signed to major label Elektra in the early '70s, Jobriath was both a victim of misdirected hype (some of it his own creation) and a culture unready for a being so pro-foundly gay. Now championed by Morrissey, the late Jobriath (AIDS complications in '83), his albums long out of print, is finally getting his chance to be heard by a more appreciative public with the release of *Lonely Planet Boy* (Attack). The 15 tracks sound tame by today's standards, but they also reacquaint us with a genuine queer music pioneer. This is the must-have disc for LGBT Pride 2005.

The songs a singer/songwriter chooses to cover speak volumes about the performer. Young queer singer/songwriter Skott Freedman's cover of "The Wind" by Cat mans cover of "The Wind" by Cat Stevens on his 2003 Some Compa-ny was a case in point. Judge a Book (Violent Yodel), Freedman's new album of cover tunes, further

Book (Violent Yodel), Freedman's new album of cover tunes, further explores that avenue. The disc allows the listener to rethink a song, performed by a queer artist, as is the case of Freedman's reading of The Verve Pipe's "The Freshmen," Brüce Hornsby's "Every Little Kiss," Green Day's "Basket Case" or "Fallin" from the Broadway musical They're Playing Our Song. My favorite parts of the album are Freedman's duets with other singer/songwriters. Not the strongest vocalist, he has pitch problems on some of the tracks. But when paired up with the likes of Edie Carey, Jill Sobule and Mark Weigle, the results are magical. Carey's is the first voice you hear on the gorgeous "Good Morning Baby," originally performed by the underrated Bic Runga. When it comes together with Freedman's, the song feels like warm sunshine. He joins Sobule in a duet on her especially like warm sunshine. He joins Sob-ule in a duet on her especially timely "Soldiers of Christ." He teams up with Weigle for a little roping and tying on The Magnetby Robert Julian

ic Fields' "Papa was a Rodeo."

Brian Grillo first crossed my radar as a member of the late '80s radar as a member of the late '80s hard-rocking band Lock Up (along with Tom Morello, later of Rage Against the Machine). He gained far more fame as the front man in Extra Fancy, an in-yourface queer rock band signed to Atlantic Records in the early '90s, during the early days of the gay marketing craze. Victims of major-label malaise, Extra Fancy soon found themselves without a home. Grillo has returned solo home. Grillo has returned solo with Stomping Back on Fire (Spitshine). An undeniably powerful acoustic effort, Grillo reveals yet another side to himself over the another side to himself over the course of 11 tracks, emerging as a serious, honest voice for both the HIV and gay communities. Fans of the Grillo of old will be pleased to know that he does, in fact, plug in for closing track "Right Here." He even explores his electro-industrial side on an unitied bonne. dustrial side on an unlisted bonus

Still Life with June by Darren Greer; St. Martin's Press, \$13.95

anadian writer Darren Greer's first novel Still Life with June features a gay protagonist named Cameron who turns out to be more — and less — than the reader might initially assume. Written in the first person, with a style and tone reminiscent of Dave Eggers' A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius, Greer's novel centers around a writer who works the night shift at a Salvation Army rehab center. Cameron is disaffected, jaded, and worn down by the junkies and alcoholics who

Occupy much of his time.

During the day, Cameron tries to write short stories. His main source of material comes from plundering the files of the rehab center for interesting patient histo-ries, or hanging out in gay bars on Christmas Day to steal the person-al stories of the losers who show up. He sometimes attends a writer's



Northern exposure

group at a local bookstore, where he sits like a fly on the wall, never reading his own work or com-menting on the work other writers present. But one of the writers hires Cameron to spy on the hunky neighbor who lives in the same building, just above Cameron's flat. Since he's broke, Cameron accepts the offer. At the same time, he begins to visit the adult sister of a former rehab patient. The sister, who has Down's Syndrome, is named June, and she lives in a care facility run by the Sisters of Good Hope.

Author Greer does an excellent job of drawing the reader into Cameron's downbeat alternative universe. His observations about human nature are astute, and he mixes up the structure of the novel through a variety of literary devices. E-mails appear, as written, between characters; some of Cameron's short characters; some of Cameron's short stories are excerpted; and the reasons for Cameron's feelings are some-times shown in the form of num-bered lists that appear in italics and bold typeface. But the major twist to Still Life comes at the end, when Cameron's true identity is revealed. This sort of last-minute character switch was employed successfully by Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snickett) in his first novel, *The Basic Eight*. But Greer is not quite as effective as Handler in setting up the switch. As a result, the last-minute revelation becomes more frustrating and less effective. But Greer has a strong prose voice and fluid stream-of-consciousness style that make *Still Life* with June a worthy effort. ▼



Eri 24

SF Pride Concert @ Grace Cathedral

Grace Cathedral
27th Annual Pride Concert: "A Return to Grace," featuring the San Francisco premiere of Sing for the Cure®. Special guest, women's music icon Cris Williamson, Joins Vancouver's BLASS Youth Choir (Carol Sirianni, Artistic Director), The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (Dr. Kathleen McGuire, Artistic Director), the Leshiam/Gay Chorus of San Francisco (Stephanie Smith, Artistic Director), and the San Francisco Leshian/Gay Preedom Band (Jadime Louie, Artistic Director) for the concert. The first half, Sing for the Cure®, is a musical journey through the lives of breast cancer survivors and loved ones. The second half celebrates women singers and songwriters. The four groups vow to "vock the flying buttresses" of Grace Cathedral with nearly 250 musicians and singers! \$20 general, 350 reserved, Fri, June 24, 8pm. Grace Cathedral, 1100 California St. Tix: (415) 865-ARTS (2787); www.sfgmc.or

Transgender Pride March @ Dolores Park

March @ Dolores Park
The 2nd Annual Trans March will take
place Fri., June 24 in Dolores Park. Live
bands including the legendary Tribe 8,
transpender and gender-variant speakers,
drag kings, and musicians will perform
from 3-7pm, and the March listelf will begin
at 7pm. MCF Stynn Breedlove, Annie Danger, and Michelle Garcia. Featuring Tribe
8, Jen Ro, Partick Califla, The Viragos,
Mommar's Boyz, Thea Hillman, Katastrophe, Julia Serano, Fairy Butch, Lipstick
Conspiracy, Sini Anderson, The Transformers, Christopher Lee, DJ Molly Straylight
and much more. Brought to you by United
Genders of the Universe, ETM International, SF TEAM, Transgender San Francisco,
Good Vibrations, Community United
Against Violence, & The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Info: samdavis66@sbcgiobal.net

Medea: The Musical @ Theatre Rhinoceros

@ Theatre Rhinoceros
Extended through July 3: Medea continues!
Theatre Rhinoceros closes its 27th Season
with writer/director John Fisher's runaway
hit Medea: The Musical, winner of six Critics Circle Awards (including Best Musical),
the Will Glickman Play Writing Award, the
BackstageWest Garland Award, the
GLAAD Media Award, the Cable Car
Award and the LA Weekly Award for Best
Musical. A rollicking backstage musical of
love, lust, adventure and ambittion. Extended through July 3. 515-528. 8pm WedSat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun. The Rhino, 2926
16th St. (btvm Mission/S. Van Ness). Tix:
415-552-4100 ext 104; www.therhino.org

Whoop-Dee-Doo! @ NCTC Whoop-Dee-Doo! © NCTC
Runs thru July 10: New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten presents the
musical extravaganza Whoop-Dee-Dool; directed by Ed Decker, with musical direction
by Michael O'Dell and choreography by
Tom Segal. Conceived/created by Charles
Catanese, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Waldrop.
The prequel to When Pigs Fly, with a dizzy
collage of songs and sketches. \$20 Wed.;
\$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat. Showtimes 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25
Van Ness Ave. near Market. TiX/info: 415861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

What's Wrong with Angry? @ NCTC

Angry? NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Ceneter's Pride
Season Ten presents British
playwright/screenwriter Patrick Wilde's
coming-of-age play What's Wrong with
Angry? Directed by John Dixon. Wilde explores head-on the social taboos (and in
England, the laws against even schoolroom
discussion) surrounding teen homosexuality.
Steven Carter, who lives in the small English town of Basingstoke, is 16, sexy and
gay. He is quite happy with this; it is other
people who find it a problem, \$20 Wed;
\$26 Thu. & Sun, \$28 Fri, \$32 Sat. 8pm
Wed.-Sat; 2pm Sun, NCTC, 25 Van Ness
Ave. near Market. Tix: 415-861-8972;
www.nctcsf.org

Spencer Day's Someday,

Spencer Day's Someday,
Love @ NCTC

Runs thru July 3: NCTC's 2005 "In Concert
Series" presents Spencer Day and The
Crimson Club (Shannon Kelley, Brian
Knecht, Gerri Lawlor, Sheelagh Murphy) in
Someday, Love. Original music by Spencer
Day; book by Day, Rafe Chase & the Crimson Club; directed by Richard 'Scrumbly'
Koldewyn. Someday, Love is a new Noir
musical about three lonely barfiles imprisoned by their own lives. \$28. Bpm. Series
passes available (\$36 preview passes; \$60



The celebrated Mark Foehringer Dance Project/SF brings "Diadorim" to the YBCA Theater for a great Pride Season show. See Friday.

Flex Pass; \$70 Opening Night passes; \$50

Mark Foehringer Dance

Mark Foehringer Dance
Project @ YBCA Theater
Mark Foehringer Dance Project/SF 10th
anniversary celebration presents "Diadorim" (world premiere) a ballet roted in
the folk and classical musical traditions of
Brazil and inspired by the Brazilian novel
"Grande Serlaö, Veredas", "The Devil to
Pay in the Backlands") by João Guimarães
Rosa. \$14-\$22. 8pm Fri.-Sat., June 24-25.
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater,
701 Mission St. @ 3rd St. Info:
www.mfdg5a.org, Tix: y78-ARTS (2787);
www.yerbabuenaarts.org

Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre
Runs thru July 31: Make It So Productions presents Drag Superstars Matthew Martin as "Charlotte" and Varia Jean Merman (aka Jeffery Roberson) as "Miriam" in Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte, directed by Matthew Martin, a side-splitting parody of the original book & cutt film Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1964) which starred Bette Davis and Olivia DeHavilland. \$27-\$32 (\$5 off students, seniors, groups of 10). 8pm Davis and Olivia DeHavilland. \$27-\$32 (\$) off students, seniors, groups of 10). 8pm (2pm Sun.). Run thru Aug. 31. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. at Mason (Union Square). Tix/info: 415-474-8800; TIX Union Square; ticketweb.com. Info: www.makeitsoproductions.org

Watch Me Shine @ Michael's Octavia Lounge

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge Michael's Octavia Lounge presents the premiere of Watch Me Shine, a new original musical rewe celebrating the history of the gay and lesbian experience. Book & lyrics by Adam Sandel. Music by Richard Link. It's an irreverent journey through 80 years of gay history and social evolution. \$30 (\$25 tax deductible) + \$10 food or drink minimum. 8pm. Show runs thru June 25. Michael's Octavia Lounge, 1772 Market St. (at Octavia). Thus 300-595-4TIX (4849); www.watchmeshinethemusical.com; www.tix.com

Jack Curtis Dubowsky @ Victorian Englander House Music by Jack Curtis Dobowsky, featuring The Paradigm Brass Quintet, Jarratt Rossin, Bassoon, Nik Phelps, Clarinet, Deb Fox, Viola, and Dobowsky, Roland SH-1000. \$15.8pm. 807 Franklin St.

Seth Montfort @ Victorian Englander House

Victorian Englander House Victorian Englander House Concerts presents "Superman The Human Juke-Box", in which classical pianists Seth Montfort performs audience requests in costume from over 100 memorized works from Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Joplin, Gershwin, Cabaret and Jungle Jazz. 55-510. Fri., June 24, 10pm + Sat., June 25, 4pm & 8pm. Victorian Englander House (1880-2005), 807 Franklin St. © Turk. Info: 415-362-6080; www.sfclassicalmusic.com

Mr. & Miss Gay Latino/a 2005 @ Esta Noche Esta Noche presents a special Pride pageant culminating in the crowning of Mr. & Miss Gay Latino/a 2005! 9:30pm. 3079

16th St. Info: 861-5757.

Garea's Bonfire @ Ocean Beach

Gyeg Taylor and friends celebrate Pride with the return of the Friday night bonfire! Gyeg started them when he returned from London in 2002. Should be a beautiful night per usual. It happens Fri., June 24, 9pm-midnight. Info: gyreg.com/bonfire

Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café

@ Three Dollar Bill Cafe
Queer Open Mic featuring a powerful 2nd
generation butch Pinay with Philippine
roots: Iolan buhain sevilla. Co Hosted by
Cindy M. Emch and Sherilyn Connelly.
Queer Open Mic aims to foster a conversation among a community of gueer and feminist poets & performers within a multi gender, age and cultural framework. \$1.55 donation (NOTAFLOF). Sign up 7:30, show @
Spm. Three Dollar Bill Café, SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), Info:
www.threedollarbill.com

Fudgie Friday @ The Transfer

@ The Transfer
Official After-Party for The Tranny March!
Join Fudge: "Man With The Biggest Balls
In Show Business" Frottage and friends to
celebrate his 29th Birthday and TransPride
with a wildly entertaining variety show featuring Birdy-Bob Watt, DeeDee Luxe, Jay
Walker, Jaycubo Perez, Humidity LuRay,
Angel X, Mighty Max and more! DJS Molly
Starlight and Sini Andreson, Fri., June 24,
10pm-2am. \$5 donation. The Transfer, 198
Church St. at Market

Shawn Ryan's 'Blue Skies'

@ Empire Plush Room (a) Empire Plush ROOM
Join cabaret sensation Shawm Ryan alongside the Kelly Park Trio for an unforgettable evening of jazz, cabaret and comedy.
SF native and LA-based cabaret star Ryan
returns to the Bay Area to bring his hit one
man show "Blue Skies" to the glorious
Plush Room for one week only (June
22–25) to celebrate the release of his new



Crooner/entertainer Shawn Ryan unveils his snazzy, jazzy "Blue Skies" album at the Empire Plush Room. See Friday.

album with the LML Record Label. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. at Leavenworth. Tix: 415-885-2800; www.plushroom.com; www.shawn-ryan.com

Pansy Division @ Café Du Nord

Queer Rock n' Roll with Pansy Division, The Ex-Boyfriends & The Nervous Breakdowns. \$10. 21+w/ID. Fri., June 24 at 9pm. 2170 Market St. Info: www.cafedunord.com

In Bed w/Fairy Butch @ 12 Galaxies

In Bed W/Fairy Butch-Pride a'paloozal For Gals & Trannies of All Colors & Their Pals! Frl., June 24. Doors & Speed Dating: 8pm; Show at 10pm. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. at 22nd St. Info: www.fairy-

Sat 25

SF Opera/GALA Choruses @ SF LGBT Pride Celebration

SF Opera/GALA Choruses @ SF LGBT Pride Celebration Pride kicks into high gear at Civic Center as thousands of your friends and family gather to enjoy the San Francisco Opera, the GALA Choruses, and a host of other great entertainment along with the arts & crafts booths, the enoprofit organizations, the beverage vendors, and leagues of color-full humanity. Performances on the community stages including newly formed Trans Pavillon & Stage (hosts Cecilia Chung, Shawna Virago, FTMI, SF TEAM, TGSF); Two Spirit Gathering Space (Landa Lakes hosts W poets Gabriel Duncan, Percy Lezare and Ann Begay, Pow-Wow drumming withe Denver Two-Spirit Drum, & performance artists Morningstar Vacil and Janie Laraly, and the Home High Hop Stage (hosts Robert Williams, Juba Kalamka), As always the Asian and Pacific Islander Stage (hostsed by Tita Aida & others A&PI emces, w./JenRQ, Chi Chi Palace, The Shock Family, Natalise, Clark Bolivar Jr and the Ladies of Moani Ke'ala O ka Maileaul'i & Kine Men of Ka Iho Makawalu A Ka Ua Kipi'u upu 'u, Heiwa Women's Taiko, Metamorphosis Giris, Nectar Women's Stage (hosts Danie Awad), Faerie Freedom Village and more! Gathering spaces for kids, elders & deaf folks. MAIN STABE line-up: CUAV's "Stand Against Hate" wyBlair Hansen (Noon-Ipm); SF Opera selections from the summer season (1:10-2:10); Commitment Ceremony (2:15-2:45); GALA Choruses Sing Out (2:45-3:45pm); Anna Marie Flechero (3:50-4:10); Glide Ensemble gospel greats (4:15-5:00); Cheer SF acrobatics galore (4:50-5:00); Cheer SF acrob Info: www.sfpr.ide.org

Sundance Saloon @ Ramada Plaza Hotel

@ Ramada Plaza Hotel
Sundance Saloon's first-ever Saturday
night Pre-Pride Country-Western Dance
with DJ Rick Burrows spinning tunes for
two-steppin' and line dancin' on the beautiful hardwood floor in the company of hundreds of cowboys and cowgirls. A benefit
for Positive Resource Center. Sundance Salo
loon will also host a Country-Western
Dance Stage at the Pride Celebration in
Civic Center, and will be having a postpride dance on Sunday night at the Ramada. S10 for Sat., June 25, Bom-midnight.
Ramada Plaza Hotel Ballroom, 1231 Market St. (at 8th). Inic. 415-820-1403;
www.sundancesaloon.org

San Francisco Dyke March

San Francisco Dyke March
The amazing, loving, fierce, pro-humanrights, avowedly anti-war Dyke March happens this Sat, June 25, with rally and performances beginning at Dolores Park at
3pm and the march departing Dolores Park
at 7pm, eventually to wind up at Pink Saturday in the Castro. Emcees Nafis and
Micia, DJ La Niche of Kaliente. Special
Guest: Marga Gomez. Opening Blessings
and Ritual w/ Bay Area American Indian
Two Spirits. Bands: Orguesta d'Soul, Sistas In The Pit, Wood. For the march, men
are asked to stand and support the women are asked to stand and support the women from the sidelines.

From the sidelines.

Pink Saturday in the Castro
The blessed Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence host the best queer street party of
the year— "Pink Saturday!" Sat. June
25. Donations from this event will go towards helping the Sisters continue to promulgate universal joy, expiate stigmatic
guilt and serve the community. DJs include
Jamez in the Castro Theater Parking Lot
and Special Guest DJ Donimo (Shadowplay) at 9pm. Castro Street between Market and 19th, and 18th Street between
Collingwood and Hartford. 7pm. Info:
www.thesisters.org

DJ WaxMaster C @ Rebel Girl, Rickshaw Stop

(a) Rebel Girl, RICKSRAW Stop. Rebel Girl is back by popular demand! Come celebrate Gay Pride at the Hottest Dyke March After-Party! For dykes, femmes, bois, queers of all genders and their friends. a nuwavelectroindierock-hophig80's Dance Party featuring DJS China G & special guest DJ WaxMaster C. *Undies and T-shirt give-aways! *Loot bags full of goodies! seven bucks. Sat. June 25, 9mr. 2am. 21+wID. Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell St. near Van ness). 2 Bars; ample parking; near Muni.

DJs Chris Cox, Wayne G @ Industry, Mezzanine

Celebrate Pride with DJs Chris Cox and Wayne G. Performances by Troy & The Crew. VIP Lounge. New Sky Bar. Industry Dancers. Supporting The Trevo Project (www.TheTrevorProject.org). \$30 adv/\$40 door; \$65 VIP. 444 Jessie St. @ Mint. Tix: Body on Castro; Medium Rare Music; tick-etweb.com; industrysf.com

Pepperspray, Whoa Nellies, Viragos @ Café Du Nord

Rock out with with a super fabulous all-queer, all-mighty lineup featuring tranny rock sensations Pepperspray, Whoa Nellles, and Shawna Verago and the Deadly Night-shades. \$7 (Rock). Sat., June 25, 9pm. Info: www.cafedunord.com

Pride Signings @ A Different Light Bookstsore

Different Light Bookstore
Celebrate Pride with your favorite authors!
A signing-only event. Author appearances
are for an hour. 12 noon: Kevin Bentley
(Let's Shut Out the World; Wild Auimals IHave Known); Simon Sheppard (Sev Parties 101; Rough Stuff); Bill Hayes (Five
Quarts). Jpn: Katherine Forrest (Hancock
Park; Curious Wine); Steven Saylor (A
Gladiator Dies Only Once; The Judgment of
Caesan); Marvin K. White (Nothin' Ugly
Fly; Last Rights). 2pm: Patrick Califia
(Mortal Companion), Macho Sluss: Erotic
Fiction); Greg Wharton & lan Phillips (I
Dor) Don't: Queers on Marriage; Satyriasis;
Rick Castro (13 Years of Bondage). 4pm:
Christopher Rice (Light Before Day; A
Density of Souls); Hal Bodner (Bite Chub);
Thomas Burke (Where Is Home). 489 Castro St. (at 18th). Info: 415-931-6053;
ADLBooks.com

Why We Celebrate @ Main Library

Special Presentation/Celebration: "Why We Celebrate: A Visual Arts Exploration of Black LGBT Achievements." Related exhibition on the Third Flory, African American Center. 4-5:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larking St. (at Grove).

Thom Gunn-Double Portrait

Q Victoria Theatre
Frameline 29 presents a video by Rudy
Lemcke: "Thom Gunn — Double Portrait."
Lemcke is one of SF leading digital artists,
and Thom Gunn is now a legend slowly fading but for the exquisite light of documentaries such as this. Apm. Info:
rudylemcke.com

Trannyshack @ Harvey's

ITAININGSTACK @ HATVEY'S
Heklina and the Trannyshack crew will do a
drag show at Harvey's (550 Castro St.) on
Pink Saturday! Is heldina crazy, or what?
She says if you find yourself in the Castro
on this insane evening, drop by for their
show! Doors open 10pm, with the show at
11pm featuring Heklina, Kiddie, Nikkl
Star, Cockatelia, Diva Dan, Syphilis Diller,
Suppositori Spelling, and more.

Swing Dance Party

@ Synergy School ay Synergy School
Last Saturday Monthly Swing Dance Party
at Synergy: 7pm beginning swing; 8pm Intermediate swing, Domation: Under 21
Free! Over 21 St 10 for the night. Fancy attire & comfortable leather soled shoes recommended. No partner or experience needed! This is an LGBT All-Ages dance open to
everyone! Synergy School, 1387 Valencia
at 25th St. Info: www.QueerBallroom.com

The Queer Playground @ SF Citadel

@ SF Citadel
SF Citadel
SF Citadel and Arielle Present "The Queer
Playground (Pride Weekend)," A queer energy play party for anyone of any gender or
sexuality. Service submissives and house
slaves will be serving/pleasuring the guests.
Wrestling area provided. Catered by Sharon
Kleinman and Arielle Webb. \$20. Sat.,
June 25, doors at 8 pm; party till 1 am. SF
Citadel, 245 8th St. (bown Folsom & Harrison), "Follow the Big Red Heart", RSVP
email to: MusicGeekChic@speakeasy.net.
Info: www.sfcitadel.org

ELS @ Cropping Heights

E

GLS @ Corona Heights

GLS @ Corona Heights

"Corona Heights Habitat Restoration
Workparty." Join Gay & Lesbian Sierrans
(GLS) and the Friends of Corona Heights
Habitat Restoration in the monthly work
party at one of SF's prime native-habitat
areas. Meet Joam on north side (parking
lot is on south side) of the Randall Museum
at the end of Museum Way off Roosevelt
Way. Dress in layers, wear hat, sunscreen &
sturdy shoes; bring water. Tools & disposable gloves provided (due to possible poison
oak). Info: www.glshikes.org



Sundance Saloon cowboys and cowgirls step out at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. See Saturday.

SF Ethnic Dance Fest @ Palace of Fine Arts

@ Palace of Fine Arts
World Arts West presents Weekend Three
(June 25-26) of the ST Ethnic Dance Festival, "TRANSFORMATIONS," featuring
Chinese Performing Artists of America
(humorous theatrical dance); Marsanari Indonesian Dance (Incorporating martial
arts from West Java); Dunsmuir Scottish
Dancers; Barbary Coast Cloggers; Ong
Dance (Koreat Java); Dunsmuir Scottish
Dancers; Barbary Coast Cloggers; Ong
Dance (Artist Java); Dunsmuir Scottish
Dancers; Barbary Coast Cloggers; Ong
Dance (All Composition of the Romani (Dances following the trail of the Romani (Dances following the trail of the Romani people from India, through Turkey,
Russia, and Spain); Yaelisa & Caminos
Flamencos (Newo flamenco embodying the
new wave of music from the south of
Spain); & Te Mana o Te Ra (Joyful Tahitlan dance of enlightenment, growth and cel-Spain); & Te mana o Te Na (Joyrill Tanti-lan dance of enlightenment, growth and cel-ebration). Narration by Mahealani Uchiya-ma. \$22-\$36. Sat. at 2pm & 8pm Sun. at 2pm & 7pm. Palace of Fine Arts. Tix: 415.392.4400; www.cityboxoffice.com or

Mark Weigle @ Noe Valley Ministry

Mark Weigle performs an acoustic set on Pride Saturday. His new double CD 'Soul-Sex' will be for sale. \$10-\$20 sliding at door. 8pm. 1020 Sanchez St. Info: www.markweigle.com

Sun 26

Third Eye Blind, Betty, Momma's Boyz @ SF LGBT Pride Parade & Celebration

MOMIMA: S BOYZ @ SP LEDI Pride Paradle & Celebration The parade promptly begins at 10:30am, kicking off with the Women's Motorcycle Contingent. Following close behind are over 200 Parade contingents, with masses of rainbow humanity watching from the side-lines. It all merges into Divic Center for the always mind-blowing party, with amazing sights, sounds and sensations. The Community Stages will all be going storong. MAIN STAGE line-up: BAAITS ceremony (11:50-12:05pm; Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits is a community volunteer organization offering culturally relevant activities for GLBT & Intersex Native Americans, their families and friends, info at www.baaits.org); Mystery Hang Up (12:10-12:25); Deadlee (12:30-12:45); Cheer SF (12:451-100); Average Dyke Band (1:05-1:20); Miller (1:20-1:40); Freeplay Dance Crew (1:45-2:00); Pride Awards (2:05-2:30); SuperStar (2:30-2:55); Besty (3:00-3:30); Annia Cocktail & the Diamond Daggers (3:30-3:50); Kimberly Locke (3:50-4:20); Third Eye Blind (4:10-4:40); En Vogue (4:40-5:00); Fireffy (5:00-5:20); Mommar's Boyz (5:20-5:30). Inc. www.sfpide.org

Nicole @ Wilde Oscars

"Rock n' Roll with Nicole" at the only gay owned Irish Pub in San Francisco. A wild woman doing Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Louis Armstrong, Green Day. Come ready



Wild Irish spirit Nicole rocks the only gay Irish bar in SF, Wilde Oscars! See Sunday.

to sing and laugh. "Better than oral sex . . . unless you're not getting any." — Nicole. No cover! June 26, 6:30-9pm at Wilde Oscars, 1900 Folsom @ 15th St.

'Lashes' @ Bambuddha Lounge

@ Bambuddha Lounge
Juanita MORE! Presents "Lashes," the Official Grand Marshal After Party, a benefit
for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center
(TARC) hosted by Grand Marshal Donna
Sachet, Suppositori Spelling and
Princess Kennedy, Featuring SF's hottest
DJs, Derek B, Neon Leon, and Chelsea
Starr, and live performance by The Harlem
Shake Burlesque Dancers. MOREboys,
trannies, muscles, skinnies, dykes, drag
queens, Italies, Freaks, big tilts, Il'd dicks.
Poolside Cocktail Lounge (bring your
bathing suil), Room available at the legendary Phoenix Hotel (800-248-9466)
\$10 cover. Sun. June 26, 5-10pm. Bambuddha Lounge, 601 Eddy St. at Larkiin.
Info: www.juanitamore.com

GLS @ Chabot Park

Join Gay & Lesbian Sierrans for a Chabot Park hike, an East Bay gem offering great ridge-top views of surrounding hills. This leisurely to moderately paced 9-mile hike starts at MacDonald Staging Area on Redwood Road. Carpool point: Rockridge BART at 91-53m. Bring Junch, Ijudids, hiking boots, Jayered clothing. No dogs. Rain cancels. Info: www.glshikes.org

Mon 27

Lu Read's 50th

Lu Read's 50th Birthday @ Cip Lounge
:Lu Read's 50th Birthday Party! Enjoy the Fancy Schmancy cocktail lounge (former location of the infamous My Place) now complete with tables, banquettes, 10 (or more) kinds of champagne, extensive wine list and celectic drink menu with items like chocolate & rose martinis, cucumber infused sake, etc. Vinsantos had much to do with the design of this venue, so it's quinte fantastict Monday, June 27, 8pm-midmite. Cip Lounge, 1255 Folsom St, at 8th (SoMa).

Int'l Two-Spirit Gathering

Int'l Two-Spirit Gatnering
The International Two-Spirit Gathering:
Native American/First Nations LGBTQ ceremonial/spiritual assembly June 27-July 1 at Camp Cazadero, Sonoma County. Talking circles, sunrise ceremonies, two-spirit writers group, No-Talent Show, Gourd
Dancing, sweat lodge & more. Info: Bay
Area American Indian Two-Spirits, 415-865-5616; email admin@baaits.org

Tue 28

(g)literati @ SF LGBT
Community Center
Mike Albo, Juanita MORE! and her
MOREboys star in "(g)literati". Curated
& Hosted by Mark Menke. This is the 4th &
final "Trash Talkin" Tuesdays" event in the
8th National Queer Arts Festival. Albo will
perform scenes and read from his latest
novel (with Virginia Heffernan), The Underminer, Or The Best Friend Who Casually
Destroys Your Life. Fresh from her duties
as this year's SF Pride Grand Marshall,
Juanita MORE! and her MOREBoys will
perform and read selections from Miss
MORE!'s dirtlest diary entries. S8-315
sliding. Tue., June 28 @ 7:30pm. SF LGBT
Community Center, Rainbow Room (2nd
fir), Res/Info: 415-864-4124; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Horace Bristol Exhibit

Horace Bristol Exhibit

Horace Bristol Exhibit

@ Dandelion's Gallery 55
Dandelion's Gallery 55 is featuring a group
of male images by photographer Horace
Bristol (1908-1997), including his celebrated image "PBY Blister funner, Rescue at
Rabual, 1944". His photographs of military
personal were featured in the 2004 Abrams
book At Ease. Nay Men 0f World War II.
Plus a collection of vintage drawings of
male nudes and portrait sketches framed in
period frames. This work was discovered
and assembled by Gaerra Caron and Rob

Delamater of Lost Art. Dandelion, 55 Potrero Ave.; open Tue.-Sat., ten to six Info: 415-436-9500; 888-548-1968; www.tampopo.com

Princess Kennedy @ Trannyshack

Recover from Pride with Birthday tranny and Pepperspray diva Princess Kennedy, who will be having a "Bad Hair Day".

Hostess Heklina presides. MIS\$ Chocolate at the door. DJ Derek on deks. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). \$T cover. The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: trannyshack.com

OUT Spoken @ Comcast Ch. 11

@ Comcast Ch. 11
OUT Spoken, Episode VIII, produced and hosted by Tim Gaskin. Interview with humorist Kate Clinton; Donna Sachet Interviews Matthew Martin on the set of Hush Up! Sweet Charlotte; QTV Newsmagazine segment on the SF GLAAD Media Awards. On the couch: SF supervisor Bevan Dufty; Jimmer Cassio; Trevor Hailey ("Crulsin" The Castro walking tours); AIDS Walk SF Event Director Serafina Palandech; and Mike Smith, previewing Lazy Bear Weekend. Comcast Ch. 11 premiere at 6:30pm on June 28; encore presentations: June 29, 8:30pm; July 2, 7pm; July 3, 8pm.

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals

Momosexuals

@ Main Library

San Francisco Public Library Presents Nazl
Persecution Of Homosexuals 1933-1945, A
Traveling Exhibition from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, in the Skylight
Gallery, Ted Phillips, Deputy Director of
Exhibitions at the US Holocaust Memorial
Museum, will speak on Tue., June 28 at
6:30pm, about his personal and professional journey in the process of curating this
landmark exhibition. Main Library's Koret
Auditorium. Info: 415-557-4277.

Auditorium. Info: 415-557-4277.

Out at the Library

"Out at the Library Celebrating the James C. Hormel Gay and Losbian Center,"
marking the Center's 10-year anniversary
this summer. An extraordinary exhibition
from the Center's Collections of artifacts,
documents and photographs spanning over
100 years, featuring Civil War boots, pulp
aperback books, personal correspondence
from Alice B. Toklas, Harvey Milk's
appointment book and more. This exhibition
will be on display at three sites: the Jewett
Gallery and the Hormel Center at the
Main Library at Civic Center, and the
Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial
Branch Library in the Castro. Info: 415557-4277.

Wed 29

Killing My Lobster Kabaret @ Make Out Room

@ Make Out Room
"Killing My Lobster Monthly Kabaret," a benefit for the SF Coalition on Homelessness presented by Lobster Theater Project and FreeDirt Media. Performances by comedian Bridget Schwartz, musician Vanessa Morrison, comedian Rob Martinez, musician Erik Maskol, and alt. rockers The Jonah Kit. Host: Paco Romane, actor, writer, filmmaker, comedian, multiinstrumentalist, \$5-\$10 sliding. 8-10pm. 3225
22nd St. at Mission.

PILOT 46: OVER/LAPSE @ ODC Theater

@ DDC Theater
ODC's mentorship program, PILOT, presents six emerging choreographers layering the experience of time and shifting perspectives, range from emotionally-driven duets to abstract, ambient, and formalistic group pieces. Two works feature original musical scores, while others will use pop, jazz, experimental, and electronic musical accompaniment, \$12 stiding, June 29, 8pm, 3153
17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix: 415.863,9834, www tirketwell-norm www. ofcheater.

Thu 30

@ Eagle Tavern

@ Lagre Tavern
Rock out at live-music benefit for Golden
Gate Wrestling "Thursday Nite Live" presents: The Cold War; Weed Wolf (Spector
Protector/Erase Errata); and The Militant
Children's Hour. 398 12th St. Info: 415626-0880; www.sfeagle.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Mark Mardon Out & About Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday





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& gay memorabilia

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Patrick 415-810-2325

Auto Erotica

purveyor of vintage porn & fine dildos 4077A 18th Street 415-861-5787

open every day



The Phoenix Uniform Club 14th Annual

Uniform & Leather Ball

Friday, June 24th from 08:00 pm to Midnight

In the historic Civic Center Area of San Francisco Includes: Hosted Bar, Appetizers, Buffet Dinner, Dessert New: separate, seated Dining Room Live Entertainment:

Gail Wilson & the City Swing Band

Tickets available:

Daddy's Bar Marlena's Bar **Rock Hard**

Image Leather Mr S Leathers Stompers Worn Out West

Leather Masters (San Jose)

ds to be donated to Positive Resource Center & Magnet SF lsom Prison SF's HOTTEST SEX CLUB MONDAY - NÁKED NIGHT Everyone naked including employees TUESDAY - CHEAP MEAT \$8 entry fee all night WEDNESDAY - BULGE Muscle Night THURSDAY - JUVENILE HALL 18-25 Years old FREE incarceration 1285 Folsom @ 9th with membership. SUNDAY - BEAR NIGHT Cum feed the Bears mackfolsomprison.com

SHOWERS+COMPUTER LOUN<mark>GE+GLORY HOLES+SLINGS</mark>

Leather is a ball!

'Leather & Uniform Ball' this Friday

by Mister Marcus

ride weekend is upon us and while there may be several "private parties" for leather mavens, the main event is the Leather and Uniform Ball tomor-Leather and Uniform Ball tomorrow night, Friday, June 24 in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building at Van Ness & McAlister. This annual gathering put on by the venerable Phoenix Uniform Club is a "must" for anyone who purports to be into leather and especially if they are uniform fetishists. You'll find spiffy uniforms, highly polished boots, leather camaraderie, most people dressed to the nines, a fabulous buffet, and the unforgettable City Swing band featuring the dynam-Swing band featuring the dynamic Gail Wilson — and all for a mere \$60 donation if you buy

your ticket in advance. Otherwise, it's \$70 at the door.
Of course, this is a benefit for various charities supported by the Phoenix Uniform by the Phoenix Unifori Club. It is the premiere event for leather folk during San Francisco Pride Week. For the past 13 years, hundreds of leather tourists and locals have participated in this event and many are repeats. Ad-

vance tickets are avail-able at Daddy's, Image Leather, Rock Hard, Worn Out West, Marlena's, Mister S and Stompers Boots. It's the place to be, and be seen. Hope to see you all there!



The Leather Contingent has been one of the largest contin-gents in our Pride Parade and this gents in our Fride Parade and this year will total approximately 400 plus motorcycles. At their final meeting before the parade last Sat., June 18, those in attendance voted to have Peter Fiske and Vic Germany as the marshals for the Leather Contingent. Great choicesl A lot of out of town leather personalities will also join the group including Mr. Los Angeles Leather Cody Hoaglund.

Audrey Joseph - icon

In another area, the Folsom Street Events people have voted to

Uniforms galore at the annual Leather/Uniform Ball. These folks are sporting Russian gear and you can see much more at the Ball on Friday, June 24 in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building in Civic Center. See you there!

dedicate this year's Folsom Street Fair to Audrey Joseph, a long-time activist in the leather community. Audrey has been involved with so many leather-oriented events, it would be impossible to list them

all here. A few of them would be Leather Weekend at the Russian River, a big part of Interna-tional Mr. Leather, Inter-national MS. Leather, In-

ternational Ms. Leatner, In-ternational Mr. Drum-mer, Mr. and Ms. San Francisco Leather, Pedi-atric AIDS Ward fundraising, and the

Entertainment Com-missioner for the City

& County of San Fran-cisco. This is certainly a deserving accolade for a Brooklyn-born leather woman. Congratulations!

SoCal Leather Women

Leather

It's been a long, long time since Los Angeles has had a female leather titleholder but comes Sat-urday, August 6, a Southern Cali-fornia Leather Woman title launches a title contest and a fashion show by Octaviana with hot men and women models. It will take place at the Passive Arts Stu-dio (10914 S. La Cienega Blvd.) beginning with a 1700 Meet & Greet and the contest at 1900. Afterwards, there will be three, repeat, three "play parties", one for women only, one for men only and a pan-play party!

In a new twist to the contest

scene, the winner will be chosen by YOUR ballot; the audience will pose questions to the contestants and YOU will pick the winner with your ballot(s). Sounds good to me!

The host hotel is the Clarion Hotel, 5249 W. Century Boulevard and a special rate for attendees is only \$73 per night. Call (800) 266-2210 to reserve your room. For more info, email to: spit-shineboy@aol.com. The host hotel and the contest venue are both within one mile from LAX airport, so plan accordingly if you are going to attend this one

Stepdown w/no successors

Not only has interest dwindled in the Leather Sir/boy title contests — it has totally vanished, at least in Northern California and the Mid-Atlantic Region. In view of these developments, last year's winners of the Northern Califor-nia titles, (Tom Braddock, Leather Sir and Phil Nickerson, Leather boy) will be honored/eulogized at a ceremony on Saturday, July 2 at the Powerhouse Bar. Instead of brain, brawn, muscle, sweat and fantasy, it will be a celebration of the accomplishments of Tom and Philip with "chocolate cake" and whatever else may transpire and you're ALL invited. It happens July 2nd 2000, bours at the Power. 2nd, 2000 hours at the Power house, of course!

Oh, and by the way, Hi Carlton! Is it true you're running for Empress under the name Carla? Inquiring minds want to know

Another transition

Do you know how difficult it is page **107** ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 23

Fran Frisch bear artist show opens at the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison St. between 9th & 10th) today with a reception from 2000 to 2300 and hangs until July 5th. It's an Aloha type beer/soda bust with door prizes etc.

Friday, June 24

Friday, June 24
Leather/Uniform Ball in the Green Room of the
War Memorial Building (Van Ness @ McAllister
Sts.). Tix are \$60 advance, \$70 at door. Available
at Daddy's, Image Leather, Rock Hard, Worn Out
West, Marlena's and Stompers Boots.
The 15 Association's monthly play party at the
usual secret location. Doors open 2000 to 2200,
until 1AM next day. For info/invite: 415-673-0452
or surf to www.the15association.org.

Sunday, June 26

SF Pride Parade in downtown San Francisco on Market Street with huge celebration at the Civic Center. If you can't attend, check it out on KRON, nel 4 where Lenny Broberg will narrate with

Weekend, June 29-31

Master/slave Conference 2005 in Washington, D.C. with Viola Johnson the keynote speaker. For info: www.masterslaveconference.org.

Wednesday, June 29

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. Spray frequently & freely. For info,

Friday, July 1

Photo show by SF Daddy's Boy Jorge Vieto at Magnet (4122 18th St.), "A Boy and His Camera," from 2000 to 2200, with proceeds from sales and the raffle to benefit Magnet, the gay men's

and the rather to belief it magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro.

If you're in Toronto, Ray Tilton is marrying Sean Cribbin at 1600 today at Rooftop Terrace Union with a reception to follow in the same building. There will be NO paper wedding dress at this

Weekend, July 1-4

L.A. Boys of Leather annual "Stars & Stripes" in Los Angeles and Long Beach. Donations range from \$50/\$75 for the weekend package. For info and to register, surf to: www.LaBol.org.com

Saturday, July 2

Saturaay, July 2 Celebrate the title year of No. California Leather Sir Tom Braddock and Leather boy Phil Nickerson at the Powerhouse at 2000. There will be no con-testants at Int'l Leather Sir/boy from Northern

Peter the peacock

'74 feature 'That Boy' re-issued on DVD

by John F. Karr

eter Berlin chose his identity. If being an out person is today's choice compliment, then Peter's the OutMost. Has then Peter's the OutMost. Has been ever since he chose himself a Prince Valiant haircut and a Querelle-tight wardrobe that he could manipulate with the most cunning of darts and seams, to make a cock that was big by birthright even bigger by tailoring. And he chose a name that was neither mask nor disguise, but proclamation. He has said its double entendre was unintentional, but I see destiny in this willful act but I see destiny in this willful act of self-creation. Because Peter or self-creation. Because Peter wasn't just choosing a name, he was becoming peter itself. As I quip in Jim Tushinki's new documentary, *That Man: Peter Berlin*, "He's a full-body genital."
Peter's public peacocking of his penis has always stopped people in their tracks. What do you say or do when confessions the

say or do when confronting the Penis Incarnate? Peter hoped we'd join him in worship. Present arms, so to speak. Such immediate en-gagement is beyond most of us mere mortals, however; we ap-proach the mysteries through the proach the mysteries through the intercession of their handmaiden, porn. So Peter made two movies. The second of them, the 1974 feature *That Boy*, has just been painstakingly remastered onto a DVD that also includes a generous photo gallery and three of Peter's homemade short films of incredible priapic narcissism. Now, I have to offer some disclosure — I'm

to ofter some disclosure — I'm not only interviewed in *That Man*, but engage Peter in conversation as host of the Director's Commentary track included with *That Boy*. But though Peter's always aroused my most profound appreciation and awe, I'm still rational. So: *That Boy* is the re-issue of Karrnal Knowledge

pretty fine piece of filmmaking, fascinating, and frequently very sexy.

It can also be pretty silly. Not entirely satisfied with the direction provided for his first movie, Nights in Black Leather, Peter directed That Boy himself. He scored the movie with an unusually eclectic array of music, and edited the action strikingly to directions. ally eclectic array of music, and edited the action strikingly to climax along with it. He developed some highly effective sex scenes for the movie, but came up with linkage on-the-fly. When his costar proved unable to act, Peter made the character blind. The crux of the plot became Peter's need for refuge in the boy's acceptance. This prompted some rather tance. This prompted some rather convoluted, not entirely compre-hensible, and unintentionally comic musings on Peter's part. Here's a man who lives to be seen, whose biggest need is to be witnessed, paradoxically finding ful-fillment in a person who can't do



Peter Berlin's advanced narcissism works on a psychological plane.

either. There's a piece of classical music Peter plays for us as we watch him masturbate in one watch him masturbate in one scene, its calm telling us to look inward. "The fantasy is in your head," Peter told me. Yet most people can't stand back from his

outrageously blatant display and let Peter engage their minds.

A puzzlement?
Understand that
cock worship, and
most especially
Peter's advanced narcissism, sometimes works better in

display mode, on

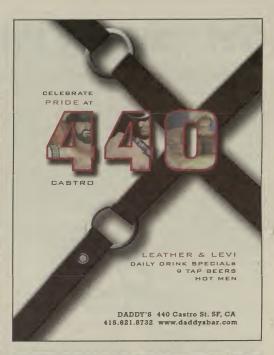
logical plane rather than in physical application. Peter's actually irked in *That Boy* when he has to condescend to the supposed needs condescend to the supposed needs of his porn audience and have penetrative sex, much of which he simulates — although there's some nasty cocksucking and, in the satisfyingly pornographic finale, at least one powerfuck, which culminates with a deliciously attentive blood led setting his love. tractive blond lad getting his lovely ass royally screwed before taking a mammoth mouthful of Peter punk in reward.

Fully enhanced

Yet *That Boy* packs its most powerful punches in its fantasy scenes of peter appreciation. It isn't porno as we know it, but an intense exploration of eroticism, and most especially fetishism, for both cock and cock-enhancing garments. In the movie's most brilliant se-quence, Peter prances before a photographer's camera, slowly stripping what seems unending layers of cock-glorifications, each more incredibly teeny and enticing than the last. The scene finds Peter — who has admitted he doesn't re-ally like the exposed penis, and that

ally like the exposed penis, and that he prefers a witness — at his most personally unique, mesmerizing and ardently engaged.

It's strange that an exhibitionist should find in a blind boy the metaphor to tell us our gaze should turn inward. Perhaps it was also Peter's unconscious attempt to excane from poin. He's was also Peter's unconscious at-tempt to escape from porn. He's quite accurately been called the Greta Garbo of porn. Like Garbo, he left his film career behind without regret because he simply did-n't have the taste for it. "It's all lies," he would disdainfully tell me hes," he would disdanfully tell me about porn. Yet *That Boy* contains a variety of truths. In casting his tricks, and shooting entirely on location, Peter gives us priceless glimpses of the way we were, of the demimonde who lounged on Polk Street, the fantastical apartment discrept the street of the demimonde who have not free the demimonde who lounged on Polk Street, the fantastical apartment discrept the street of the day and most ment décor of the day, and most especially of Folsom Street's legendary No Name bar. It's also a horny memorialization of the Icon Peter. At the end of *That Boy*, Icon Peter. At the end of That Boy, Peter walks off into the sunset with his blind lover and explains in voiceover, "He will always hold me in his memory as I am now, as I was in these fine days." Never having actually seen Peter to begin with, the blind boy will do no such thing. But, thanks to this scrupulously produced and gratefully received re-issue of That Boy, we will wow Gorille Factory Produce. will. www.GorillaFactoryProductions.com ▼







Mister Marcus

previous page

to keep a secret? Well, Pandora's Box has flung itself open and you are hereby notified that Leather Masters headquartered in San Jose has entered into an agreement to transfer ownership and take con-trol of Leather by Boots-Dallas.

With their recent 16th anniversary behind them, Leather Masters has pledged to continue Leather by Boots' legacy of commitment to Boots' legacy of commitment to customers and is proud to sup-port the region's events, contests, contestants, titles, charities and businesses. Better news: there will be no changes in the staff in Dal-las. Leather Masters will continue producing the Master's Retreat

and the boys Training Camp.
You read it here first!
Hope you all enjoy Pride Week
in San Francisco. I'll see you at the
Leather Uniform Ball and the
Pride Brunch the next day at the
Ramada Plaza Hotel. Both hefty donations, but remember it's all for charity! Have a great time at the parade and everything associated. See you next week! ▼

Get your Gay Pride on!

Celebrating the diversity of our LGBT community

by Donna Sachet

magine growing up in a school environment that celebrated diversity. Yes, it is the farthest thing from most of our imaginations, looking back on hallways ripe with bullying, taunting, and name-calling. But COLAGE (Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere) celebrates all the many variations of family we may encounter, e.g., two male par-

counter, e.g., two male parents, a transgendered parent, an extended family including biological and chosen parents, etc.
The 15th Anniversary Celebration of COLAGE last Thursday explored many of those alternative families

in a film, In My
Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT
Parents, from director Jen
Gilomen, with active participation
by several children with wisdom
far beyond their years. After a few
introductory remarks, the film was
screened for the supportive,
crowded room, followed by a Q&A
with the cast. Tireless Bay Area activists Ramona, Arzu and Marina
Gatto were featured in the film,
and in attendance, along with Marina's handsome, brave boyfriend.
With this truly compassionate face
on the issue, it is very hard to understand the opposition to a larger definition of family. The eyeopening film will soon be available
for wider distribution

committee of a ramily. The eyeopening film will soon be available
for wider distribution.

The next day, we filmed some
promotional spots with Liam
Mayclem for the KRON-4 coverage of the 35th SF LGBT Pride Parade in the cozy environs of the
Three Dollar Bill Cafe of The
Community Center. Watch for one
of these spots where I actually pass
the microphone to my co-anchor
replacement at KRON-4 Lenny
Broherg, international title-holder in the leather community, active
participant in the Gay Softball
League, highly honored member of

the Imperial Court, annual emcee of the Transgender Cotillion, and proudly gay Police Officer. Despite a rocky transition, we have every confidence in Lenny's ability to steer you skillfully through the Pride Parade from the comfort of your home this Sunday.

After the filming, we headed to

your home this Sunday.

After the filming, we headed to SF General Hospital for their annual Pride Celebration for AIDS/HIV patients and their health-care providers. We joined Supervisor Tom Ammiano and Two-Spirits Land o' Lakes at

miano and Two-Spirits Land o' Lakes at the outdoor party complete with a cameo appearance by the (almost) Village People and addresses from various commu-

nity representatives. Although confined to a hospital, the participants were able to share in the excitement of Pride in San Francisco, while enjoying a bountiful buf-

ch, wine enjoying a bounding of the management of the massorted parlor games.

After a couple of unscheduled stops at various Castro drinking establishments, we caught up with the dashing Tim Gaskin for the opening night of Watch Me Shine, a musical history of the gay and lesbian experience in about an hour at Michael's Octavia Lounge. The audience included heroic California Assemblyman Mark Leno and Jimmer Cassiol from the Mayor's Office. Don't let this delightful romp through history end without a vicit!

without a visit!

On Saturday, we celebrated the relocation of the offices of the SF Gay Men's Chorus to the SF LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market. Have you waited as patiently as I for a clearly identified ticket-booth to open? Finally, three years after the opening of the building, we have a centralized location to purchase tickets to 'a wide-ranging spectrum of community events right in the lobby of the Center! We were treated to musical selections from small en-



Schwester Gabriela Berlin, a Sister from Germany, with Donna Sachet.

semble groups of the Chorus, and were given the opportunity to bid on a private concert by Chorus soloists. Don't miss the 27th Annual Pride Concert this Friday at Grace Cathedral at 8 p.m., featuring the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF, the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band and the SF Gay Men's Chorus, with special guest GLASS Youth Choir from Vancouver, Canada, the world's first gay/lesbian/allied youth chorus. Saturday night was Sachet with the Sisters, a fundraiser for The

Saturday night was Sachet with the Sisters, a fundraiser for The Center honoring the contributions of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, former City Assessor Mabel Teng and LGBT business partner Bill Del Monico. The Ceremonial Room was filled with celebrants including many past and current members of the Center Board of Directors such as Scott Weiner, Josie Clevenger, Greg Ligotti and James Holloway, as DJ PussPuss kept the music pumping. Mabel received her award from dynamic Executive Director of The Center Thom Lynch, and she acknowledged the community which has embraced her so completely. Board co-chair Doug Pinter presented the Sisters with their recognition, and the assembled picture was an historical

moment. City Treasurer Jose Cisneros made the final presentation, leaving no doubt of his popularity. Congratulations to all, especially Development Director Marguerite Judson for dreaming up this creative fundraiser.

Pride plan

That brings us to Pride Weekend! As your society columnist, I feel it is my duty to guide you through the social whirl of the coming days. Trust me, this weekend is not for the faint of heart! Friday night, start at the PanPacific Hotel for the Tin Pan Alley Presents cabaret series, 8:30 p.m.; then the Phoenix Uniform & Leather Ball at the Green Room of the War Memorial Building until around Midnight; a quick stop at Fag Fridays at The End Up and Club Dragon at Eight; and a final dance at Underworld, Guspresents' very hot dance party at 550 Barneveld.

On Saturday, start at the 7th Annual Pride Brunch Poncoging the

On Saturday, start at the 7th Annual Pride Brunch honoring the Grand Marshals of the Pride Parade and benefiting Positive Resource Center at 11 a.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on Market. During the day, if you can get over to Pier 45, you'll enjoy the Freewheelers' annual car show, but save some energy for the big night! Pink Sat-



City Treasurer Jose Cisneros with photographer Steven Underhill.

urday in the Castro is second only to Halloween as a raucous night of outdoor revelry. After you check out the hordes in the streets and Trannyshack does the "Gay Ghetto" at Harvey's, you'll have to choose between Guspresents' Colossus at the Gift Center Pavilion, where **Deborah Cox** will mesmerize you; or Mezzanine's Industry, with DJs Chris Cox and Wayne G. As these parties wind down, Bump will wind up at Eight until the wee hours of the morning, the same morning there's a gigantic parade up Market Street.

At 10 a.m., the Dykes on Bikes start off the parade, followed by a install the parade, followed by a install the parade secretion, the

At 10 a.m., the Dykes on Bikes start off the parade, followed by a joyful throng representing the many aspects of our beautifully diverse community, ending in an explosion of celebration in Civic Center with musical headliners En Vogue and Third Eye Blind, plus a surprise performer mid-afternoon. Don't fade yet! Meet us after the Pride Parade at the Phoenix Hotel's Bambuddha Lounge at 5 p.m. for Juanita More's Grand Marshal Party, Lashes; then FRESH at Ruby Skye with DJ favorite Kimberly S.; and finally, Sanctuary at 525 Harrison. In-between it all, get some rest, take your vitamins, patronize your local bars and businesses, and take to heart the Pride Celebration slogan, "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud!" ▼

Two names were misspelled last week in On the Town. Carolyn Rae should be Caroline Rhea, and Roma Mafia should be Roma Maffia. The B.A.R. regrets the errors.

Living la bota loca at the Bench and Bar

by Mike Sher and Mark des Jardins

f you want to live la vida loca
("crazy life"), you should buy
the best-selling album by Latino heartthrob Ricky Martin. If
you want to live la bota loca
("crazy boot"), there's just
one thing to do — go
to the Bench and

to the Bench and Bar, 2111 Franklin Street, Oakland, center for gay Hispanics and their friends in the East Bay.

Abel, our cordial bartender, wasn't sure of the Bench
and Bar's exact age, but he believes
it goes back to the 1960s. It took its
name from the nearby location of
Alameda Superior Court.

Monday
and Bar ha
to 8 p.m., wevery day.

Alameda Superior Court.

The place was always extremely popular, and it became clear that an expansion was needed when the bar opened in its present location of Franklin near 21st St. Owners Charles, Alejandro, Keith and Frankie knew that patrons would appreciate the larger dance floor, larger rest rooms, and general roominess.

Walk up a winding three-story strains from Franklin, or if necessary, catch the elevator. As you enter, a comfy lounge area spreads to your left. An outdoor, smoking-permitted patio is on your right, where during the week you can view the working throngs on their way

Straight ahead of you will be a pool table, and to your left a popcorn machine. The bar stretches out on the right. Straight ahead is an immense dance

an immense dance floor and a stage. Festive balloons hang down from the ceiling.

hang down from the ceiling.

Monday to Friday, the Bench and Bar has a happy hour from 4 to 8 p.m., with different specials every day. A nightclub operates from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily, and there's something different every day of the week.

Monday, it's Latino Lunes, celebrating its 10th anniversary, with what it describes as the sexiest strip-than the second of the second of the sexiest strip-than the second of the se

Monday, it's Latino Lunes, celebrating its 10th anniversary, with what it describes as the sexiest strippers around. The show starts at 9 p.m. No formal event Tuesday, just a big Happy Hour with \$2 Long Island Iced Tea. Wednesday is a new



Bench and Bar bartender Abel Margo, third from left, with his buddies.

event, *Sabroso* ("Tasty"), with reggae, hip hop, and old school. You can get 2-for-1 well drinks and low-priced domestic beer.

priced domestic beer.
Thursday is Coochielicious!, a night for the ladies. There's a variety show starting at 9 p.m. with exotic ballerina types, and DJ Brandon. It's para chicas que aman chicas, ladies who love ladies. \$3 tequila sunrises are featured.

Friday is Latin Explosion night, with \$2 Cuervo shots, \$3 Cuervo margaritas, and a buffet, frequently Chinese. It's the night for Club Papi, an affiliate of Bench and Bat that also operates at several other

locations around California.

If you've waited all week to live la bota loca, Saturday is your night, the newest at Bench and Bar. Cowboy attire is encouraged, and vaquero (Latin cowboy) music may be heard, \$3 frozen margaritas are on offer.

Time considerations made it impossible to preview all these events. But with the layout of the place, the cordial surroundings and different areas of the bar, it seems a good bet that time could be enjoyably spent on any night at the bar. California has a long Hispanic tradition. You need only look at the

names of cities and towns throughout the state. The burgeoning Spanish population made places like Bench and Bar and Esta Noche in San Francisco [to be covered in a future issue] great gathering spots for Hispanics and friends. Olé!

Upcoming events include the 6th annual Mr. Gay Latino, one of three Luna Azul events that take place at the Bench and Bar every year. (The other two are Ms. Gay Hispanic, and Mr. Gay Vaquero.) Mr. Gay Latino starts on Monday, July 18 and 25. The grand finale is on August 1. If you want to check out some past winners of Ms. Gay Hispanic, go to the club's website, www.bench-and-bar.com.

Hispanic, go to the club's website, www.bench-and-bar.com.
So join the throngs of Hispanics and friends on the floor of the Bench and Bar virtually every night. You'll definitely live la bota loca, and after a while, you may think you're living la vida loca!

Bench and Bar, 2111 Franklin Street, Oakland. (510) 444-2266. Website: www.benchand-bar.com. Happy hour 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Monday to Friday. Nightclub 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. nightly.

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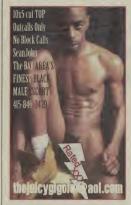
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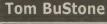


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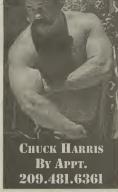


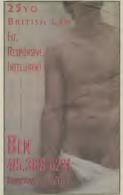
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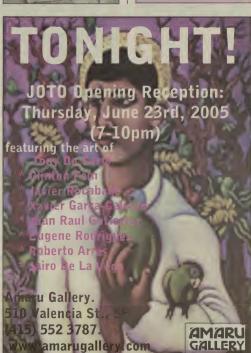
















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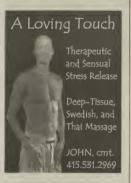
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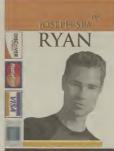
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